

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



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BABY GABRIEL MOTHER ELIZABETH JOHNSON BECOMES A MANAGEMENT ISSUE IN JAIL

Arpaio Wins Summary Judgment in Federal Court

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio reports that inmate Elizabeth Johnson arrested in connection with the disappearance of her baby son has become a management problem for Sheriff's detention officers.

The Sheriff recently stated during interviews with local and national media that Johnson had been a model inmate and that she had not been creating any problems while in the Maricopa County jail.

Within the last week Johnson has been placed on the Sheriff's nutra-loaf program, commonly referred to as bread and water, where she was charged for assaulting two other inmates. The loaf consists of nonfat dry milk powder, an assortment of fruits and vegetables, chili powder, and bread dough all compacted into one solid brick-like loaf.

Inmate Johnson submitted a document titled "My Advanced Directive's Will" to jail staff after several days on the loaf program and claimed that she is starving because she refuses to eat the loaf which she says is full of rotten vegetables and worms. The letter prompted officers to transfer Johnson to the jail's psychiatric unit facility where she could be evaluated.

The program requires inmates to eat a nutritional loaf two times a day in isolation rather than the regular two meals that inmates receive consisting of a sack lunch in the morning and a hot meal in the evening.

Sheriff Arpaio started the loaf program ten years ago as a measure to prevent inmates from assaulting detention officers and other inmates. "I will not tolerate prisoners abusing my officers or other inmates by throwing urine, feces, or assaulting them. For that type of behavior they will go on bread and water" Stated Arpaio

The loaf program was just upheld in court Friday when a federal judge issued a grant of summary judgment in favor of the Sheriff's Office. The case, Bugoni vs. Coffman claiming the Sheriff's nutra-loaf was unconstitutional punishment was dismissed.

News Release

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