



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

*Federal Medical Center, Carswell*

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P. O. Box 27066  
"J" Street - Building 3000  
Fort Worth, Texas 76127

August 22, 2019

Katie Townsend  
Legal Director  
The Reporters Committee  
For Freedom Of The Press  
1156 15<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. Suite 1020  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Townsend,

In response to your letter of May 29, 2019, and follow-up letter of July 2, 2019, regarding news media interview requests for inmates in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, I hope the following information is helpful in clarifying my discretion concerning inmate interaction with the news media.

The mission of the Bureau of Prisons is to protect society by confining inmates in facilities that are safe, humane, cost efficient and secure, and to help prepare inmates for a successful return to the community. The Bureau of Prisons has an established process for considering inmate interview requests. Access to Bureau facilities is governed and managed by the facility Warden whose responsibility is to maintain the orderly running of the correctional institution and ensure the safety of staff, inmates, and the public.

As Warden of the Federal Medical Center Carswell, my decision regarding granting personal interviews and/or filming an inmate interview is based upon whether the requested access poses any risk to the safety of inmates, staff, or the public. I accommodate a level of access to inmates commensurate with safety and security concerns, and as such, I consider inmate personal interview requests and facility access on a case-by-case basis.

The Bureau of Prisons recognizes and supports the important role of journalists and appreciates the ongoing positive and professional working relationship the Bureau of Prisons maintains with the news media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

M. Carr  
Warden