



Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 829 (1994)

The inmate alleged that prison officials violated the Eighth Amendment by their deliberate indifference to his safety. The Court held that the prison officials could not be found liable under the Eighth Amendment for denying the inmate humane conditions of confinement unless the officials knew of and disregarded an excessive risk to inmate health or safety. The prison officials needed to be both aware of facts from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm existed, and they also had to draw the inference.

For Medical Definitions, the Court Looks to the AMA

Petitioner, who is serving a federal sentence for credit card fraud, has been diagnosed by medical personnel of the Bureau of Prisons as a transsexual, one who has "[a] rare psychiatric disorder in which a person feels persistently uncomfortable about his or her anatomical sex," and who typically seeks medical treatment, including hormonal therapy and surgery, to bring about a permanent sex change. American Medical Association, *Encyclopedia of Medicine* 1006 (1989)