



Shade Swayzer

Milwaukee County Jail

Reuters

Experience

Shade Swayzer tragically lost her newborn baby while incarcerated in a Milwaukee County Jail. She was mentally ill and pregnant when arrested, and jail staff failed to properly monitor her despite documented concerns. Isolated and without proper medical attention, Shade gave birth alone in her cell, and her baby died shortly after. Her story exemplifies the dangers faced by a growing population of women in jails who have complex medical and mental health needs.

Why It Matters

Shade's story is a heartbreaking example of a system failing someone in desperate need. Her death, and the death of her newborn, highlight the importance of treating all people with dignity and compassion, even those who are incarcerated. Shade's case isn't isolated. It exposes flaws in the way jails handle female inmates, particularly those with mental illness or who are pregnant. Raising awareness can lead to reforms and better care for all women in similar situations. Inadequate care in jails can have ripple effects. Untreated mental illness and addiction can lead to recidivism, putting the public at risk once these individuals are released. Proper care can help break this cycle.

Alliance for Incarcerated Women

Shade Swayzer's heartbreaking story, like countless others, exposes the lack of resources for incarcerated women. The Alliance for Incarcerated Women (AIW) fights to change that. With health services like mental health advocacy and prenatal care support, legal representation, and family connection programs, AIW empowers women and protects their well-being. Imagine the difference AIW could have made for Shade. Your donation can help provide critical services and prevent future tragedies. Donate to AIW today and stand with incarcerated women.

www.aiw.ngo