Does quarantine violate constitutional rights

Linguistics, English

Quarantine due to health concerns do not violate the 14th Amendment of the United s Constitution. Although a quarantine is not directly mentioned in the U. S. Constitution, challenges in order to have a quarantine broken have been denied by the Supreme Court. It has been ruled that quarantines are constitutional. The Supreme Court and laws have deemed the greater good of the American Public need to be decided by health experts in the United States v. Shinnick.

Recently an Ebola outbreak in a few African countries has become deadly for thousands. Americans have gone to the region as healthcare workers. Kaci Hickox, a nurse, returned to the United States to be quarantined. She believes that under the 14th Amendment quarantine is unconstitutional. Hickox was released before filing her lawsuit. Hickox was upset by how she was treated by officials at the airport before being quarantined at her home. Hickox's lawsuit stating quarantine violates her 14th Amendment due process rights would have been dismissed for two reasons. The first is the precedent ruling of United States v. Shinnick. Expert healthcare workers would have testified that Ebola has a three week incubation period. During those three weeks, if the nurse had Ebola she could pass it before recognizing the symptoms. Thus the case would have been decided by Ebola experts' testimony. Hickox, as a health worker, would have testified, but she is only one person with a tainted reason to lie.

The second reason Hickox's petition would have been dismissed is the 14th Amendment deals with due process. Due process pertains to criminals. Since Hickox was not charged with a crime, due process was not being violated. Due process limits the time a citizen can be detained by police until charges

are brought. No charges would have been brought toward Hickox. This

means the case had nothing to do with due process. These two reasons show

that quarantine is constitutional under the 14th Amendment.