

Ray's Request Denied

Tennessee prison officials have rejected James Earl Ray's request to be evaluated at a Pittsburgh hospital as a liver transplant recipient.

"If they don't let him go to Pittsburgh for an evaluation of [his] liver, they just gave him a death sentence," said Ray's brother, Jerry Ray.

The decision, reported today by The Commercial Appeal in Memphis, comes as Ray, 69 and suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, continues to attempt to get a trial for the 1968 murder of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray asked to travel to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, which operates one of the world's leading organ transplant programs.

Tennessee Correction commissioner Donal Campbell said the state does not have the authority to transport an inmate to another state for that purpose.

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