

Ray's Attorney to Ask His Transfer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — An attorney for James Earl Ray says he will ask Federal court this week to order Ray transferred from his maximum security cell at the state prison because Ray's health is deteriorating.

"He's lost a lot of weight and his health will be ruined," said J. B. Stonery of Savannah, Ga., one of three lawyers working for Ray. "He's been in solitary confinement too long for his health not to suffer."

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence, is not allowed to mingle with the general prison population. He has been housed in a six-by-nine-foot cell since March 11, the day after he pleaded guilty in Memphis to

the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray's cell is on an 11-cell corridor in the maximum security building. The cells on either side of Ray's are kept empty, but there are other prisoners nearby.

Ray is permitted to leave his cell only when he is sick, when he showers and when he exercises.