



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

DLP:AEP:VH:JCP:CA:drb
DJ 168-8-15

Special Litigation Section
P.O. Box 65400
Washington, D.C. 20035-6400

Laurie Woodall
Chief
Health Services Unit
Office of the Attorney General
State of Arizona
1275 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

February 14, 1995

Re: Investigation of Arizona State Hospital

Dear Ms. Woodall:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to close our investigation of the Arizona State Hospital ("ASH") in Phoenix, Arizona. As I am sure you are aware, the Department of Justice has been investigating conditions of patient care and treatment at ASH pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 et seq.

Based upon the results of our tours of ASH and the information attached to Ms. Gotkin-Adler's January 18, 1995, letter, we have concluded that conditions at ASH have improved to the point that they no longer threaten the constitutional rights of ASH patients. Dr. Migliaro and the staff at ASH have taken a number of measures over the past few years to improve services at ASH.

This is not to say, however, that there is no room for improvement at ASH. Our most recent tour of ASH focused on the hospital's restraint and seclusion practices. The January submittal, though reflecting improvement in the facility's restraint and seclusion practices during the past year, indicates that ASH must continue to exercise extreme vigilance to ensure that restraint and seclusion are used only as an absolute last resort in emergency situations.

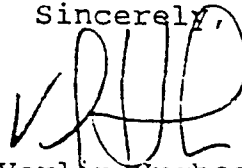
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Finally, I wish to thank you and the ASH staff for the courtesy and cooperation extended the Department throughout the history of this investigation. If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Hughes', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Verlin Hughes
Senior Trial Attorney
Special Litigation Section

cc: James Loss, Esq.
Assistant United States Attorney