



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

MAY 20 1986

Honorable James R. Thompson  
Governor  
State of Illinois  
State Capitol Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

U.S. v. Illinois



MR-IL-002-002

Re: Investigation of Howe Developmental Center

Dear Governor Thompson:

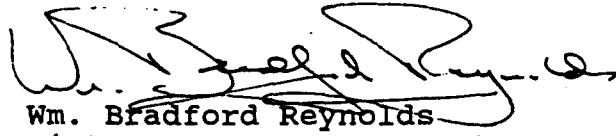
I am writing in reference to this Department's continuing investigation of Howe Developmental Center pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), 42 U.S.C. 1997.

By letter dated April 18, 1986, we informed you of our intent to investigate Howe Developmental Center. Since that time attorneys from our office, accompanied by expert consultants, have toured the facility on several occasions. On each visit we received the full cooperation of the staff at Howe. We appreciate their assistance and willingness to provide any materials our consultants requested.

During our investigation, Howe Developmental Center has undergone many changes in personnel and management structure. At the time of our last visit, a new director was in place and many personnel had been assigned new duties. In light of these changes and the initiation of yet to be completed improvements in the operation of the facility, we will defer making a judgment regarding the adequacy of the facility's overall program of care and training for Howe's residents. Recognizing the State's efforts to change and improve conditions at Howe, we have determined that it is appropriate to allow responsible state officials and staff at Howe a short additional period of time to completely address the areas of concern - abuse and neglect of residents by staff, adequacy of staff, and environmental safety and sanitation - before reaching a conclusion as to the adequacy of conditions at the facility when judged by the applicable constitutional standard. Accordingly, we will return to Howe with appropriate consultants to assess conditions in approximately six months.

I look forward to continued cooperation between our offices as we work to ensure constitutional conditions for residents at Howe Developmental Center. If you have any questions about our plans please feel free to have your counsel contact the attorneys assigned to the investigation, Gayle Fidler (202/272-6058) or Cynthia Katz (202/272-6052).

Sincerely,



Wm. Bradford Reynolds  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Neil F. Hartigan  
Attorney General

Ann Kiley, Director  
Department of Mental Health  
and Developmental Disabilities

Anton R. Valukas  
United States Attorney

Kenneth Kulberg, Superintendent  
Howe Developmental Center