



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

December 20, 1996

CRIPA Investigation



MR-LA-002-002

The Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Investigation of Hammond Developmental Center
in Hammond, Louisiana

Dear Secretary Shalala:

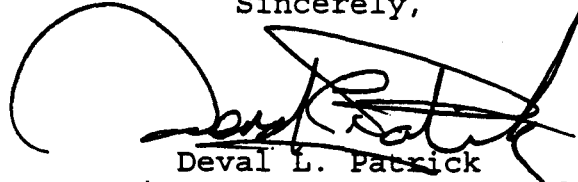
I wish to advise you, pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997, of our intent to investigate the Hammond Developmental Center ("Hammond"), a state-operated facility for individuals with developmental disabilities located in Hammond, Louisiana.

We have received information that calls into question the constitutionality of the conditions at Hammond. If you have received any complaints regarding this facility or have any other information you believe would be helpful in this investigation, please advise us. We understand that this facility has recently been placed on a "fast track" for decertification in the Medicaid program because of suspected abuse, neglect and the inappropriate use of restraints at the facility.

We will cooperate fully with your Department in this matter and will consult with you regarding the status of our investigation. If you have any questions, please contact the attorney assigned to this matter, Richard J. Farano, at (202) 307-3116.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Harriet Raab, Esquire
General Counsel

Bruce C. Vladeck, Ph.D.
Administrator
Health Care Financing Administration

Mr. Anthony J. Tirone
Director
Office of Survey & Certification
Health Standards Quality Bureau