



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

CRIPA Investigation



MR-LA-001-001

OCT 12 1994

The Honorable Edwin W. Edwards
Governor of Louisiana
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Re: Investigation of Pinecrest Developmental Center
in Pineville, Louisiana

Dear Governor Edwards:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at Pinecrest Developmental Center ("Pinecrest") in Pineville, Louisiana. This investigation is conducted pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 et seq.

The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether conditions at Pinecrest violate the residents' federal constitutional and statutory rights. We will be looking at, among other things, resident safety, the adequacy of medical care, training, staffing, the use of psychotropic medication, and issues involving community placement. The initiation of this investigation does not indicate a prejudgment on our part that federal rights have been violated. Additionally, if any violations are found, we intend to confer with you and your staff concerning any appropriate corrective action.

We would like to initiate this investigation as soon as possible. In that regard, attorneys from my office will contact your staff within the next week to arrange a tour of Pinecrest by our consultants and Civil Rights Division personnel. The attorneys responsible for this matter are Tawana Davis, (202) 514-6534, and Richard Farano, (202) 307-3116.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick". The signature is stylized with a large loop on the left and a horizontal line across the middle.

Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: The Honorable Richard P. Ieyoub
Attorney General
State of Louisiana

The Honorable Rose V. Forrest
Secretary
Health and Hospitals Department

Mr. Edwin Wright
Administrator
Pinecrest Developmental Center

Michael D. Skinner, Esquire
United States Attorney
Western District of Louisiana