



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 1 1994

CRIPA Investigation



MH-VA-001-002

The Honorable George Allen  
Governor of Virginia  
State Capitol Building  
Ninth & Grace Streets  
Richmond, VA 23212

Re: Investigation of the Northern Virginia Mental  
Health Institute, Falls Church, Virginia

Dear Governor Allen:

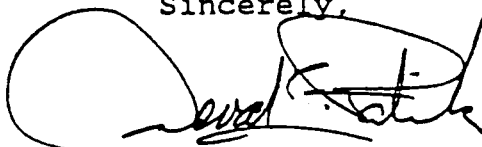
I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI) in Falls Church, Virginia. This investigation is pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997.

The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether conditions at NVMHI violate the residents' federal constitutional rights. We will be looking at, among other things, the adequacy of medical care, psychiatric care, staffing, and the use of physical and chemical restraints. 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 the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute by our consultants and Civil Rights Division personnel. The attorneys responsible for this matter are David Deutsch, (202) 514-6270, and Christopher Cheng, (202) 514-8892.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Deval L. Patrick  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: The Honorable James S. Gilmore, III  
Attorney General  
Commonwealth of Virginia

The Honorable Kay C. James  
Secretary  
Health and Human Resources

Regis L. Chapman, Ph.D.  
Acting Commissioner  
Department of Mental Health,  
Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse

Ms. Phyllis E. Marshall  
Director  
Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute

Helen F. Fahey, Esquire  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Virginia