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Horton v. Williams

AUG 1 6 1996

THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. BRYAN

CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA DEPUTY .RECEIVED

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

)

Plaintiffs,)
vs.)
BOB WILLIAMS, et al.,)
Defendants.))

JAMES HORTON, et al.,

No. C94-5428 RJB

CLASS ACTION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF GREEN HILL SCHOOL:

On August 16, 1996, a proposed settlement of the remainder of plaintiffs' claims against the State defendants was filed with this Court. The proposed settlement is called a "Supplemental Stipulation and Judgment." This Notice is to advise you about the terms of the Supplemental Stipulation and Judgment and to explain how to file written objections to it, if you have any. Final approval of the settlement by the Court is required and will be subject to the Court's review of objections filed by residents of Green Hill School (GHS).

This Notice only summarizes the terms of the proposed settlement. A complete copy of the proposed settlement is available upon request in all of the living units at GHS and in the school library.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT- Page 1 ORIGINA INSTITUTIONAL LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT 101 YESLER WAY, SUITE 301 TLE, WASHINGTON 98104 (206) 464-0838

I. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS NOTICE

The lawsuit and the proposed agreed court order affect all youth housed at GHS, now or in the future.

II. HOW TO FILE OBJECTIONS WITH THE COURT

Any resident may file objections to the proposed settlement by mailing written objections to Clerk of the Court at: U.S. Courthouse, Union Station, 1717 Pacific Avenue, Room 3100, Tacoma, WA 98402-3200. These objections must be mailed by September 15, 1996, and should reference the case number, USDC-WD No. 5428 RJB. After reviewing any objections filed by residents, the Court will determine whether to accept the proposed settlement.

III. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

- 1. The proposed Supplemental Stipulation & Judgment requires the State defendants to retain consultants to review the mental health services and treatment programs available to youth at GHS, and to develop a remedial plan to insure that the mental health services and treatment programs available to youth at GHS comply with relevant legal standards.
- 2. The proposed Supplemental Stipulation and Judgment requires the State defendants to comply with all relevant state and federal laws in accommodating the mental disabilities of youth at GHS.
- 3. The proposed settlement further requires the State defendants to provide youth at GHS with access to appropriate mental health services.
- 4. It also requires the State defendants to perform mental health screens on youth in lock-up for safety (as opposed to disciplinary) reasons for more than 72 hours, and to make appropriate mental health treatment available to youth in lock-up.

- 5. The proposed Supplemental Stipulation and Judgment prohibits the State from using lock-up for juveniles with acute mental illness in any manner inconsistent with State or federal law.
- 6. The proposed settlement requires the State defendants to give youth access to qualified staff to evaluate for mental health needs and to provide access to mental health treatment in a timely manner.
- 7. The State defendants are required to administer anti-psychotic medications only if medically appropriate and only as consistent with relevant law.
- 8. The proposed settlement requires GHS to document all resident refusals of mental health treatment and to get the resident's written confirmation of the refusal.
- 9. The Supplemental Stipulation and Judgment requires the State defendants to develop a revised policy related to the administration of psychotropic drugs.
- 10. An independent monitor will help the plaintiffs' attorneys make sure that the defendants do what they are supposed to do under the terms of the settlement.
- 11. The court will maintain jurisdiction over the case for four years to make sure the defendants meet their obligations under the Supplemental Stipulation and Judgment.

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