

WBR:AEP:PSL:JMR:dc
DJ 168-32-50

U.S. v. Louisiana



MR-LA-004-001

30 NOV 1984

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Honorable Edwin Edwards
Governor of Louisiana
State Capitol Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Re: Notice of Intent to Investigate
Belle Chasse State School

Dear Governor Edwards:

I am writing to let you know of our intention to investigate conditions within Belle Chasse State School in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. This investigation is pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997.

The purpose of this investigation will be to determine whether there exist any violation of the federal constitutional rights of institutionalized persons with respect to food and nutrition; shelter and medical care; abuse and neglect; and training necessary to protect residents from unreasonable risks to personal safety and freedom from undue bodily restraint. The initiation of this investigation in no way includes any prejudgment on our part that federal rights have been violated. If any violations are found, we look forward to conferring with you and your staff concerning corrective actions that might be appropriate.

As a means of commencing this investigation, I wish to propose an initial meeting in the near future between our attorneys and representatives of your office. It has been our experience that such a preliminary conference can substantially expedite the

John Wilson, Public Information Officer

cc: Records Chrono Peabody Lawrence FitzGerald Russell Hold

investigation process. We will also wish to arrange for our attorneys, consultants, and perhaps agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to visit the facility. We shall be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of our meeting and later visits.

I greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: William Guste
Attorney General

Wayne Greenleaf
Superintendent
Nelle Chasse State School

Sandra L. Robinson
Secretary
Department of Health
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