

Dear Karleen Jackson, PhD.,
Commissioner—DHSS,

October 4, 2007

In the attached letter, DHSS stated they were going to investigate and put forth an opinion—"Can and should forensic patients be placed in units containing those psychiatric patients civilly committed?"

We are asking for a copy of that report. We are on a committee that is discussing the issue.

As we stated before, the state cannot house civilly committed psychiatric patients in jail or forensic units, except in an emergency, and then civilly committed patients must be kept separate from the other prisoners. Conversely, the same rule should apply—the State cannot house forensic patients in units containing those psychiatric patients civilly committed.

After research, we believe there is an absence of statutes and regulations concerning mixing forensic and civilly committed psychiatric patients, but that should not stop the state from doing the right thing and not mix them.

There are presently 3 hospitals that do civil commitments and 4 or 5 others that do three day forced evaluations that sometimes stretch out to seven days.

We would appreciate your Department sending us a copy or a summary of your findings within 10 days.

Thank you,

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Cc: Ms. Anna Kim
Asst. to the Governor

Faith Myers
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