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May 11, 1988

Robert C. Joondeph
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635 Board of Trade Building
310 S.W. Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Bob:

This letter follows up our April 22, 1988 public records order on your petition for public disclosure of records of Dammasch State Hospital.

In that order, we stated that Dammasch maintained no statistical records of patient grievances. After we issued that order, I was advised that prior to January 1988, Dammasch did keep some monthly records concerning grievances. These records state the number of grievances filed in a given month and list, by patient name, grievances carried forward from the previous month, grievances rescinded or resolved by consultation with the interdisciplinary team, and grievances carried forward to the next month. I further was advised that Dammasch may reinstitute a grievance record keeping procedure in the future.

For the reasons stated in the April 22, 1988 public records order and the companion order of the same date relating to records of the Oregon State Hospital, we conclude that the monthly records concerning patient grievances are exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law. However, I again urge

you to contact Assistant Attorney General Diane Brissenden to discuss the issue whether you are specially entitled to inspect these records pursuant to ORS 179.505(14).

Very truly yours,

JAMES E. MOUNTAIN, JR.
Special Counsel to the
Attorney General

JEM:ti
cc: Stanley F. Mazur-Hart, PhD, Superintendent, Dammasch State Hospital
George W. Bachik, Superintendent, Oregon State Hospital
Diane Brissenden, Assistant Attorney General
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