



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

WESTERN REGION

PITTSBURGH STATE OFFICE BUILDING
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15222

TELEPHONE: 412,565-5220

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December 21, 1972

Mr. Charles A. Peters
Executive Director
Allegheny County Chapter
of The Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children, Inc.
917-1001 Brighton Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Chuck:

I agree with your assessment of Mr. [REDACTED]'s letter, a copy of which you forwarded to me. It does seem inappropriate to prohibit private use of a telephone between residents in a state facility (including Polk) and their families. As a matter of Fact, this will be one of the rights in the "Bill of Rights" for the mentally retarded in institutions and private licensed facilities.

With regard to Polk State School and Hospital, we will instruct Dr. McClelland to review and appropriately revise his rule to permit use of a private pay telephone.

I am referring your letter with attachments along with my letter to you to my staff. They will follow-up with Dr. McClelland.

Thank you for referring this information to us.

Sincerely,

Ralph L. Meador
Commissioner
Mental Health and Mental Retardation