

Willowbrook staff-parent fight put off for week

Supreme Court Justice John A. Garbarino yesterday put over to next Friday resumption of talks on proposed new guidelines governing the relationship of staff members and parent groups at Willowbrook State School.

A court source said the adjournment was granted to permit Deputy Assistant Attorney General David Spiegel to work on further modifications on the new proposals, submitted earlier this week, and to permit Robert L. Feldt, attorney in charge of the Legal Aid Society's Staten Island Neighborhood Office, to prepare a memorandum of law in opposition to the guidelines.

It was learned that the new guidelines contain the provision that parent groups may meet with staff members on the institution's grounds, but only with the knowledge and approval of Dr. Jack Hammond, school director. Feldt, representing parents of

four children at the school, brought a show cause proceeding last month to annul Dr. Hammond's Dec. 3 memorandum in which he forbade staff members from meeting with parent groups on school grounds without authorization, either during work hours or during off-hours.

Two staff members who conducted group meetings were dismissed Jan 5 by Dr. Hammond, who reportedly held them responsible for published articles dealing with child neglect and mistreatment at the school.

On Jan. 20, the state agreed to rescind the controversial memorandum but was given permission by Garbarino to draw up the new set of guidelines for court approval.

Prior to yesterday's conference, Feldt expressed displeasure with the proposed new guidelines and claimed the state was acting in "bad faith." Feldt could not be contacted for comment following the conference.