

Willowbrook court ruling postponed

Supreme Court Justice Vito J. Titone yesterday postponed decision on whether a public hearing should be held on a suit initiated by Bronx Congressman Mario Biaggi against the directors of Willowbrook State School.

After a three-hour session in private chambers with Biaggi and several aides, Titone said he would make a ruling Aug. 21.

A petition filed last March in Bronx Supreme Court claimed that the school had violated state law by not providing patients at Willowbrook with adequate "care, treatment, training and education." The case was subsequently transferred to Staten Island on a jurisdictional question.

The action was instituted on behalf of Adrienne Renelli, a 21-year-old resident at the school who had allegedly been beaten several times in the past year, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Renelli of the Bronx.

The petitioners have also requested the court to determine a standard of care given to patients at Willowbrook under the state law.

In arguing for a public hearing, Biaggi said the suit is within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court since it is not an individual claim against the state by Miss Renelli, but a class action for all patients at Willowbrook.

Named as respondents in the case were the state Mental Hygiene Department; Dr. Allen Miller, commissioner of mental hygiene; Willowbrook, and Dr. Jack Hammond, former director of the school.