

Child's IQ declined while at Willowbrook, court is told

By **TERENCE J. KIVLAN**

A father called yesterday by the state to testify about the improvement of his retarded daughter while at Willowbrook Developmental Center was confronted by evidence indicating that the girl's IQ has dropped drastically since her arrival at the institution in 1967.

Also during cross-examination in Brooklyn Federal Court, the father, Jerome Hamet, acknowledged that his daughter was admitted to Willowbrook as a participant in the hepatitis experiment conducted at the facility in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In the experiment, medical officials obtained the consent of parents to inoculate children and then expose them to the disease to test the effectiveness of the medication.

In earlier testimony, Hamet said he was generally satisfied with living conditions at Willowbrook. He told Judge Orrin G. Judd that the girl had been toilet trained and was no longer subject to violent fits of rage that had made her unmanageable at home.

Hamet added that he knew his child would never be normal and that he felt sure that "As long as she remained at Willowbrook she will receive adequate training and supervision."

In cross-examination, however, Michael Lottman, a U.S. Justice Department lawyer

for the plaintiffs in the suit against Willowbrook, established that tranquilizers are a part of the girl's regular medication. Then Lottman read from Willowbrook records that characterized Hamet's daughter as "often disruptive" and a "terrible discipline problem."

Lottman also produced records showing that the girl had contracted shigellosis, salmonella, chicken pox, and a strep throat infection during her seven-year stay at Willowbrook.

In addition, Lottman cited records of the Jewish Community Center Hospital in Manhattan showing that Hamet's daughter scored 34 and 42 in two tests given in December 1966. Hamet then acknowledged that in 1972 the child registered only 10 in a similar test at Willowbrook.

In other testimony yesterday, Philip Weimer, food service chief at Willowbrook, testified that his staff is working toward individualized diets for residents of the facility. He also said that he had heard no reports of any food shortages at Willowbrook since he was assigned to the institution on a temporary basis in September.

Weimer went on to say that

Willowbrook residents should never be allowed to choose their own menus. He explained that in his opinion the residents are not capable of selecting proper food and that "they would be grabbing things from each other" in the dining room.

Weimer remarked that when his term in his current job expires next month, it is going to be difficult to find another temporary food chief because of the "Willowbrook stigma."

The suit against Willowbrook challenging the quality of treatment at the facility was initiated in 1972 by the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Legal Aid Society and the New York Institute of Retarded Children.

The defendants in the case are the state Department of Mental Hygiene and former Gov. Rockefeller.