

Willowbrook MD chief seeks civil service status in court suit

The chief of medical affairs at Willowbrook Developmental Center, fighting the loss of his job has initiated a lawsuit in the Supreme Court to win permanent civil service status as a deputy director and retain his \$43,000-a-year position.

Dr. Rangasamy Natarajan has obtained an order directing Willowbrook's director, Dr. Harold C. Piepenbrink, to show cause Nov. 13 why he

should not be declared to hold the permanent civil service title of deputy director.

Dr. Natarajan, a 58-year-old native of India, has held the deputy directorship on a provisional basis since he joined Willowbrook's staff in January 1973. At the time of his appointment, he said in court-filed papers, he was informed that the position would become permanent on his passing a civil service test for the

post.

In October 1974, Dr. Natarajan said he passed a civil service promotion exam for deputy director, and was certified two months later as eligible for the position.

While at Willowbrook, Dr. Natarajan held, and continues to hold, the permanent civil service title of psychiatrist.

Dr. Natarajan maintained in his papers that he is entitled to the permanent title of deputy

director under Civil Service Law since he continued to serve nine months in the provisional capacity following promulgation of the eligibility list.

As a permanent, tenured employe, he contends, his services now may not be terminated.

Dr. Natarajan was notified last Sept. 20 that his provisional appointment as deputy director would be terminated effective Nov. 20.