

Police checking patient injury

Willowbrook Developmental Center officials have asked for a police investigation into the alleged beating of a 21-year-old patient, who was found yesterday with a bruised leg.

Police said Elaine Chieffo of Building 2 received medical treatment for her injuries at the center infirmary and was able to return to the ward.

Detectives yesterday were investigating to determine whether the injury was a result of a beating, at the request of Marie Salvatore, team leader of Building 2.

Suspended nurse sues

A staff nurse in the Willowbrook Developmental Center, who lost her job Dec. 29 following the death of 20-year-old Luis Ramirez, sued yesterday in state Supreme Court in Manhattan in an effort to be reinstated.

Miss Whey Jo Rhee, a registered nurse on the Willowbrook staff since 1972, said in court papers that on Dec. 24 while she was on duty substituting for a superior, the patient, Ramirez, was reported missing.

She claimed she followed normal procedures in dealing with a missing patient. Willowbrook officials suspended her, she said, without a hearing, claiming she had used poor judgment.

Ramirez was found Dec. 29, five days after his disappearance.

Three other employes were also suspended on Dec. 29. Dr. Stanley A. Slawinski, who is filling in as director for the ailing Dr. Harold C. Piepenbrink, has said that the four employes would get a hearing this month.

Miss Rhee obtained an order from Justice Thomas J. Hughes in Manhattan directing Willowbrook officials and authorities in the state Department of Mental Hygiene to show cause next Monday why she should not be reinstated.