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Police said that Patricia Murphy was last seen at Willowbrook about 4 p.m. Thursday and was reported missing by mental institution officials at 12:20 a.m. yesterday.

The officials explained that Miss Murphy comes and goes frequently at Willowbrook. "We usually wait 24 hours before filing a missing persons report," said one official.

"She is one of our brighter residents," the official added. "If you saw her on the street, you'd think she was a normal person."

Officials described Miss Murphy, who is white, as 5 feet, 7 inches tall and weighing 170 pounds. They said she has brown eyes and hair, with a fair complexion and a large build.

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