

Character probe

Ever since the scandal of Willowbrook Developmental Center became a national issue in the late 1960s, parents with children at the center have complained long and loud about the quality of some employes at the 2,500-bed institution for the retarded.

There are too many convicted felons, too many drug addicts and too many unfit persons on staff at the center, the parents have insisted. A high-level staffer was recently accused of rape.

The state is moving to determine the "character" of its civil service employes. A recent memorandum from the center's personnel office requires each of the approximately 4,500 employes to submit \$10 to pay for the cost of a "character investigation" which will be performed by the state Division of Criminal Justice.

Employes who do not comply with the regulation will be terminated, the memo says.