

# Developmental center has identity crisis

Willowbrook...ah...Staten Island...ehem. Willowbrook Developmental Center.

What's in a name anyhow?

Don't ask officials at the institution for the retarded. They don't know what to call themselves.

Although Gov. Carey signed the change-of-name bill March 20, making Willowbrook, "Staten Island Developmental Center" as of April 1, the institution's telephone operators keep telling confused callers that they've received "no official notification" of the switch.

"Wil-low-brook" is how they're continuing to answer.

Meanwhile, Gov. Carey's office said it's not up to the governor, but to someone in the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in Albany to set center officials straight on the law.

But no one has — yet.

"I suppose we should send them something, proving their name has been changed," a spokesman for the state office conceded yesterday. "We just haven't done it, but you're right, we should."

— SYDNEY FREDBERG



Staten Island Developmental Center (formerly Willowbrook) personnel say they are awaiting official notification of the name change before putting it into use, and presumably, putting out a new sign. S.I. Advance Photo by Tony Carannante