

# Court raps state's Willowbrook policy; orders more reforms

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

New York State has failed to meet virtually every obligation to clean up the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook and to give humane care to 3,156 mentally retarded patients, a federal judge ruled yesterday.

In a sweeping and bitterly critical 70-page decision, U.S. District Judge John R. Bartels ordered the state to reform Willowbrook, and other institutions housing former Willowbrook patients, "with all deliberate speed."

Bartels, in the ruling issued in Brooklyn, said he would appoint a special master to monitor progress and to act "as an arm and as the eyes and ears of the court."

He also set a deadline of April

1, 1985, for the state to transfer all but 250 of Willowbrook's 1,369 retarded residents into group homes in the community.

He described life for patients in the 50-year-old Willowbrook complex, and in state-run institutions throughout the city's other four boroughs, as "sterile, dreary and one of enforced idleness."

His graphic and meticulously documented ruling was based in part on a personal, unannounced visit to Willowbrook last December. Bartels said inspections, some by the state's own auditing teams, showed kitchens "infested by cockroaches and rodents," patients who sat on floors covered with human excrement and who slept in rooms "reeking of urine."

The lawsuit was filed by the  
(See COURT, Page A 12)

Page 1 of 3 Pages