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### **State to appeal Willowbrook ruling**

The state this week plans to appeal a federal judge's ruling that it has not complied with a 1975 order to improve conditions at Willowbrook, officials said.

An aide to Zygmund Slezak, acting commissioner of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, said the appeal would be filed by Friday in the 2d U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in Manhattan.

Judge John Bartels of the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn ruled on April 28 that a special court master must be appointed to oversee improvements at the center, now called the Staten Island Developmental Center.

The 1975 ruling ordered the state to reduce the number of patients at the center from 5,000 to 250. The New York Civil Liberties Union has said there now are 1,200 patients at the center.