

## Carey signs patient abuse bill into law

Advance Albany Bureau

ALBANY — Gov. Carey yesterday signed into law legislation that requires state mental health and mental retardation centers to report incidents of patient abuse or deaths to local district attorneys and other oversight agencies.

"The legislation is designed to clear up any doubt," said Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly, the bill's sponsor, "about the responsibility of state institutions in these cases."

State mental health officials say they already follow the procedures outlined in the legislation.