

Peril to live-in retarded exposed

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ALBANY — Retarded people are being exposed to potentially dangerous living conditions and are improperly supervised, state Controller Ned Regan charged yesterday.

Regan said an audit of the state's program to house the retarded in private homes exposed serious problems.

For example, six people lived in one Bronx home for two years before "serious fire and structural deficiencies" were reported.

There also were "insufficient bathroom facilities and client bedrooms" and "numerous inoperable smoke detectors and fire extinguishers" in other homes, he said.

About 3700 retarded live in state-funded centers in private homes that are supervised by the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Meanwhile, Regan said 37 percent of "family care homes" in New York City were operating without state licenses or certificates.

He said there was also strong evidence that many retarded are not getting required annual physical, dental and psychological examinations because case managers often failed to conduct required monthly visits.