



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F

Mental Health

Coalinga State Hospital

24511 West Jayne Avenue, Coalinga, CA 93210
(559) 935-4300

March 6, 2008

Daniel Wagoner
Patients' Rights Advocate
P.O. Box 5000
Coalinga, CA 93210

Dear Mr. Wagoner:

This letter is to inform you that Coalinga State Hospital (CSH) has received your letter dated February 20, 2008. In your letter, you state that you have received several complaints from Individuals regarding the right to keep and use personal possessions.

You referred to a statement from Cynthia Radavsky, Deputy Director of Long Term Care Services for Department of Mental Health, in which she stated that the Department of Mental Health will no longer issue, use, enforce or attempt to enforce Coalinga State Hospital Administrative Directive #626.

Title 9 § 884 states "Non-LPS Patients have the following rights, subject to denial for good cause: (1) A right to keep and use personal possessions as space permits."

In order to determine the space permitted for Individuals, Coalinga State Hospital is required to comply with the following regulations.

Title 22 §71543 "All hospitals be maintained in conformity with the regulations adopted by the State Fire Marshal for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property against fire and panic."

Uniform Fire Code 20.7.2.2 states "Books, clothing, and other combustible personal property allowed in sleeping rooms *shall* be stored in closable metal lockers or an approved fire-resistant container."

Title 19 §3.19 "Every building or portion of a building governed by these regulations shall be maintained in a neat orderly manner, free from any condition that would create a fire or life hazard or a condition which would add to or contribute to the rapid spread of fire."

Title 19 § 3.14 "No person, including but not limited to the State and its political subdivisions, operating any occupancy subject to these regulations shall permit any fire hazard, as defined in this article, to exist on premises under their control, or fail to take immediate action to abate a fire hazard when requested to do so by the enforcing agency."

Coalinga State Hospital continues to require each Individual to keep only the amount of personal possessions which will fit in a wall locker in order to comply with the above regulations. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Norman T. Kramer
NORMAN T. KRAMER
Executive Director (I)

Enclosure