



DISABILITY RIGHTS

NEW YORK

New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katrin Haldeman
518-275-1720

Decision Received February 28, 2018: Senior Judge Gary L. Sharpe, Northern District of New York Grants Summary Judgment Motion in *Disability Rights New York v. Wise et al*

Albany, NY: Early yesterday morning, Senior Judge Gary L. Sharpe found that the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center), knowingly violated federal law by redacting information from records provided to DRNY, withholding records DRNY relies up to conduct investigations, and failing to timely comply with disclosure obligations.

The court held that the Justice Center's conduct deprived DRNY of its federal right to promptly access un-redacted records.

"The Justice Center must now comply with federal law and stop undermining our Congressional mandate to protect and advocate for people with disabilities." Tim Clune, DRNY Exec. Dir.

DRNY is the designated independent non-profit Protection & Advocacy System empowered by Congress to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect and provide legal and non-legal advocacy services to people with disabilities in New York State. The Protection & Advocacy System was created by Congress as a direct result of the horrific conditions that were uncovered in the 1970's at New York's Willowbrook State School.

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