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Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
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EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER SIXTY (77)

ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE OFFICE FOR VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM

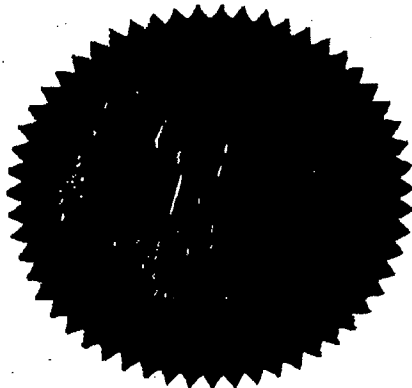
By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor, I hereby establish the State Office for the Virginia Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy System. The Office shall report to the Secretary of Human Resources, who shall appoint the Director.

The State Office shall have the authority and the duty to establish a Protection and Advocacy System which shall be designed and implemented to articulate and protect the rights of the developmentally disabled in Virginia. The State Office shall adopt each year a State Plan which shall identify the specific program activities to be accomplished. The Director shall advise the Secretary of the implications of changes in State or federal law on services provided by the State to persons who are developmentally disabled. The Director shall advise the Secretary immediately when it has been determined by the Office that the rights of any developmentally disabled person residing within a State facility are being, or have been, abridged or otherwise interfered with, and the Director shall thereupon have authority to take appropriate action, whether informal or formal, in any administrative forum, and may, if those actions are unsuccessful, refer the matter to an attorney not employed by the Commonwealth for further appropriate action.

The State Office shall be independent of any agency of the Commonwealth which provides treatment, services, or habilitation to persons with developmental disabilities. The State Office shall, however, keep the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation thoroughly advised concerning its activities, programs, and concerns, and shall render a report in writing each year to the Secretary setting forth these matters. The State Office shall provide the Department with a copy of that report.

This Executive Order Number Sixty (77) rescinds Executive Order Number Fifty-Five (77) issued on August 15, 1977.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this twentieth day of December, 1977.



Walter A. Jones

Attested:

Patricia R. Perkins
Secretary of the Commonwealth