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## **For Immediate Release:**

### Three-month investigation concludes patients at Arkansas State Hospital physically and verbally abused by Hospital employees.

The investigation was conducted by Disability Rights Center, the federally established Protection & Advocacy System, authorized by federal law to investigate incidents of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities in Arkansas.

“There exists a culture of abuse at the Arkansas State Hospital,” according to Dee Blakley, DRC lead investigator. “We fear there may be many more cases which have gone unreported due to the culture which exists there.”

#### **Some of DRC’s findings include:**

- 16 year old female patient choked during restraint
- 38 year old female patient whose arm was broken during restraint
- 49 year old male patient kneed in the side and received a fracture to the ninth rib during restraint.
- 34 year old male patient lifted into the air and allowed to fall to the floor
- 21 year old male verbally abused and required protection from an attacking staff member.
- 24 year old male was verbally abused.
- 26 year old male was shoved and provoked by staff.
- Numerous violations of Hospital Policy and failure to comply with State Law requiring the reporting of abuse.

#### **The Disability Rights Center will hold a press conference**

**On:** June 6, 2005 11:00 AM

**At:** The corner of Markham and Hooper between the Arkansas State Hospital and UAMS Medical Center.

DRC will go into detail about our horrific findings, announce demands being issued to the State for the protection of people with mental illness, hand out a summary report of our findings and answer any questions the media may have at the press conference.

For further information, please contact either:

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