

U.S. v. Georgia – 10-CV-249 – (N.D. Ga. 2010)

On October 19, 2010, the DOJ entered into a comprehensive Settlement Agreement with the State of Georgia and Georgia officials, resolving the United States' complaint alleging that individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities confined in State hospitals were unnecessarily institutionalized and subjected to unconstitutional harm to their lives, health, and safety in violation of the ADA and the U.S. Constitution.

The agreement requires Georgia to expand community services so that individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities can receive supports in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Specifically, for individuals with developmental disabilities, the agreement provides that Georgia will cease all admissions to the State-operated institutions; transition all individuals to the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs by July 1, 2015; create more than 1100 home and community-based waivers to serve individuals in the community; serve those receiving waivers in their own home or their family's home consistent with the individual's informed choice; and provide family supports, mobile crisis teams, and crisis respite homes.

For individuals with mental illness, the agreement provides that Georgia will serve in the community 9,000 individuals with serious and persistent mental illness who are currently served in State Hospitals; frequently readmitted to State Hospitals; frequently seen in emergency rooms; chronically homeless and/or being released from jails or prisons. Services will be provided through a combination of 22 Assertive Community Treatment teams, 8 Community Support teams, 14 Intensive Case Management teams, 45 Case Management service providers, 6 Crisis Services Centers, 3 additional Crisis Stabilization Programs, community-based psychiatric beds, mobile crisis teams, crisis apartments, a crisis hotline, supported housing, supported employment, and peer support services. The agreement also provides for a State-wide quality management system for community services and names Elizabeth Jones as the Independent Reviewer to assess the State's compliance with the agreement.

For more information about this case, visit the [Special Litigation Section's website](#).

[DOJ Letter Regarding Year Three Compliance \(Word\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#) - September 20, 2013

[Third report of the independent reviewer](#) - September 19, 2013

[Second report of the independent reviewer](#) - September 20, 2012

[First report of the independent reviewer](#) - October 5, 2011

[U.S. v. Georgia Settlement Agreement Fact Sheet \(Word\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#) - October 19, 2010

[Settlement Agreement \(Word\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#) - filed October 19, 2010

[Order \(Amending and Entering Settlement Agreement\) \(PDF\)](#) - filed October 29, 2010