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PROTECTION & ADVOCACY CLAIMS DISMISSED

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Wyoming Attorney General Patrick J. Crank announced today that U.S. District Judge Alan C. Johnson dismissed four of the five causes of action in a lawsuit filed by Protection & Advocacy (“P&A”) against the State of Wyoming concerning treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled citizens of Wyoming. Judge Johnson found that the vague, conclusory allegations made by P&A did not give the court jurisdiction to hear the claims. One cause of action dealing with P&A’s claim that the State is denying P&A access to patient records will continue forward.

“The State of Wyoming, the Wyoming Legislature, and all of the employees of the State Hospital and Department of Health are committed to providing the best care possible to our citizens that are mentally ill or developmentally disabled,” said Crank. “We are pleased that Judge Johnson’s ruling allows us to get back to focusing on providing high quality medical care and services to our citizens.”

Crank added that “he hoped P&A would continue to play a role in making the State Hospital even better than it is. Advocacy groups push government institutions to do their job the right way. Litigation, however, rarely solves any problems. Cooperation is a more effective solution.”

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