



## No New Residents For Rosewood

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A report critical of the care provided to the disabled residents of the Rosewood Center in Owings Mills has prompted the state to ban admissions. Proudly presenting a picture of her eldest son, Michelle Hart, beams with pride, "This is Jackson. He's six now. He's not in his wheelchair there..." A mother and a nurse, Hart must use all of her abilities to help care for two children with special needs. She's appalled by a report citing inadequate care for residents with similar needs at Rosewood. "If my child was found to have some of the level of injuries some of the residents of Rosewood have, my child would be removed from my home." Staff at the facility care for 165 residents... about a quarter of them ordered there by the courts after being judged incompetent to stand trial. Rosewood has long been the subject of criticism by advocates for the disabled, and the conditions and lack of care cited in the new 160-page report has renewed calls to shut it down. "It's top to bottom. The sewage leaks on medical supplies... unsanitary conditions," says Cristine Boswell Marchand of The Arc of Maryland, a group devoted to the needs of people with mental retardation, "People that are tube fed, while the surveyors were there... not nourished for three days." During the legislative session, state lawmakers ordered the health department to develop a plan for clearing patients out of Rosewood. But that plan isn't due until the end of the year... leaving the Maryland Health Secretary John Colmers trying to find some modern-day solutions to problems inside the 19th century institution. "The conditions reported in the licensure survey are unacceptable to me, as they would be to anyone reading the report. We are trying to take steps to remove the problems immediately." Colmers says if he shut down the center tomorrow, the state is not equipped to insure the patients would receive adequate care elsewhere.

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