

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE Northern District of Illinois – CM/ECF NextGen 1.7.1.1
Eastern Division**

Stanley Ligas, et al.

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No.: 1:05–cv–04331

Honorable Sharon Johnson Coleman

Grace Hou, et al.

Defendant.

NOTIFICATION OF DOCKET ENTRY

This docket entry was made by the Clerk on Friday, August 30, 2024:

MINUTE entry before the Honorable Sharon Johnson Coleman: Defendant's motion to vacate the consent decree [831] is denied without prejudice. The Court acknowledges that there has been significant progress since the beginning of this consent decree. However, based on the arguments presented during the hearing and the parties' briefs, the Court finds that Defendant has not met its burden to show that the consent decree should be terminated. With that said, the Court recognizes that certain legal issues will need to be addressed and resolved in order to one day get to a point where a consent decree is no longer necessary. Further, the Court also reminds the parties that a consent decree "is essentially a contract for purposes of construction." *McGee v. Illinois Dep't of Transp.*, No. 02 C 0277, 2002 WL 31478261 at *5 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 5, 2002). To that end, it is now ordered that the parties submit additional briefing on the following issues for resolution: (1) whether interim placement of class members in crisis in Special Operational Developmental Centers ("SODCs") constitutes a violation of the consent decree's express terms; and (2) what the decree's requirement is for "expeditiously" placing class members in community-based services. It is the Court's hope that resolution of these issues will bring the parties closer to termination of the consent decree. To respond to the Court's concern, the Court requests the Court Monitor to provide any additional information to the Court and all parties by 9/24/2024. Each party must then submit their briefs by 10/24/2024. Additionally, Plaintiff's proposed plan for discovery [838] addressing Defendant's motion to vacate the consent decree is stricken as moot. Mailed notice. (ym)

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