



Above: Exhibit at the *Welsch* Trial, 1973. Contractured legs.

Right: John, restrained to a wheelchair, Brainerd State Hospital, 1980. John is not physically disabled, but each morning, cuffs are put around his ankles and are attached to a wheelchair. Cuffs are also put around his wrists, and these are attached to the wheelchair. He is also restrained in bed each night. According to hospital records, he was restrained for 22 hours and has not, according to the data, spent more than 10 consecutive minutes out of restraints.





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The Welsch case from 1972 to 1989 alleged that conditions in the institutions violated the constitutional rights of residents under the 18th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. In February 1974, the court held that people with intellectual disabilities have a constitutional right to treatment in the least restrictive environment.

The Jensen lawsuit from 2009 to 2020 alleged that the former Minnesota Extended Treatment Options program used restraint and seclusion in a way that violated the 8th Amendment (to be free from cruel and unusual punishment) and the 14th Amendment, as well as rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act.