

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

CLIENT FINANCIAL SERVICES  
1600 NINTH STREET, ROOM 205, MS 2-3  
P. O. BOX 944202  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2020  
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
FAX NUMBER (916) 653-4587  
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August 6, 2003

Richard S. Kindred  
Atascadero State Hospital  
P. O. Box 7001, 33  
Atascadero, CA 93423-7001

Dear Richard S. Kindred:

Richard S. Kindred  
Atascadero State Hospital

This is in response to your letter in which you inquire about the cost of your care at Atascadero State Hospital.

Funding for the hospital comes from the state hospital appropriation, which is contained in the Budget Act. The state hospital budget reflects estimated expenditures for the budget year. The number and type of patients to be served in the coming year is only one of several considerations in the budget calculation. Individual per patient costs are not known at the time the budget is constructed, and the state hospital budget is based on historical financial data that is modified by population and expense projections for the coming year.

For your information, the average annual cost, per patient, last fiscal year at Atascadero was \$128,044. The average daily cost was \$350.81 per day. The average annual cost is calculated by dividing the cost of operating the hospital last year (\$144,859,849) by the total number of patient days (412,935).

Individuals that are committed to state hospitals under the civil commitment provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or some provisions of the Penal Code, have a legal liability for the cost of their care in a state hospital. Section 7275, et seq., of the Welfare and Institutions Code establishes this liability, as well as, the procedure for determining costs and establishing the amount, if any, to be recovered. The Client Financial Services Section of the Department of Developmental Services, under contract with the Department of Mental Health, makes a determination regarding a patient's ability to pay a share of the cost of care.

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**