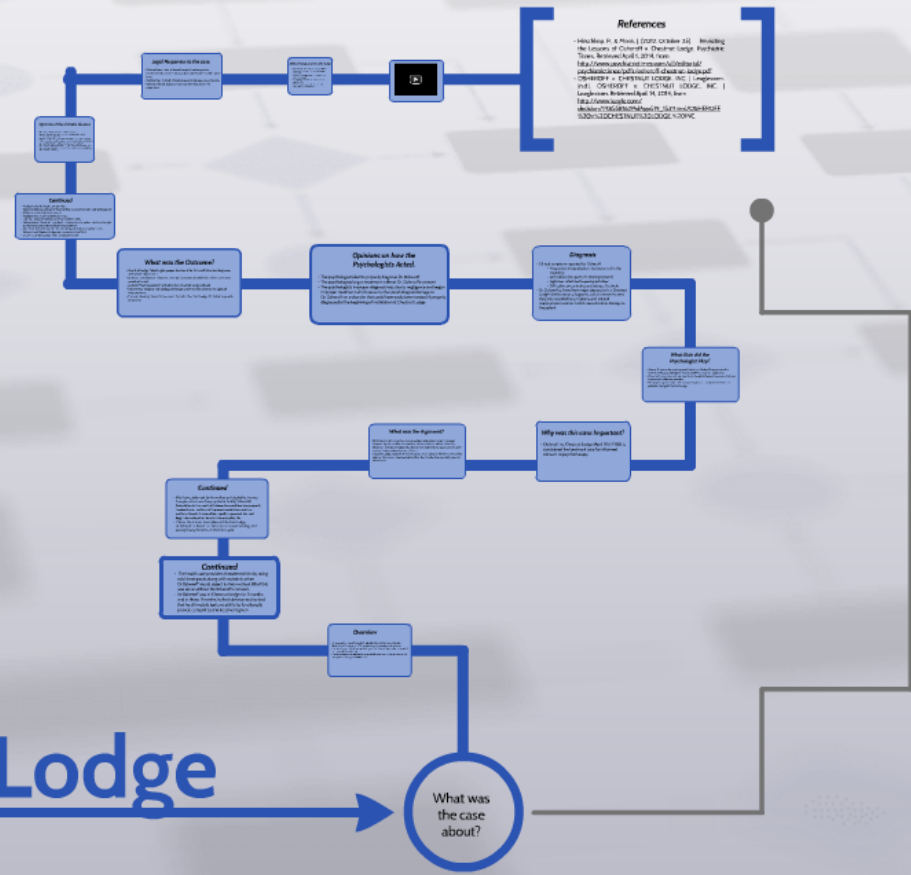


Osheroff vs. Chestnut Lodge

Jenifer Salmeron
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**What was
the case
about?**

Overview

- Dr. Raphael J. Osheroff voluntarily admitted himself to Chestnut Lodge (Rockville,MD) January 2, 1979 complaining of depression and agitation.
- Chestnut Lodge failed to properly diagnose the kind of depression from which Dr.Osheroff was suffering.
- Chestnut Lodge used confrontative psychotherapy and milieu (environment) manipulation to regress Dr.Osheroff. .

Continued

- The health care providers threatened him by using cold sheet packs along with restraints when Dr.Osheroff would object to this method. All of this was done without Dr.Osheroff's consent.
- Dr.Osheroff was in Chestnut Lodge for 7months and in those 7months he had deteriorated so bad that he ultimately lost any ability to functionally provide consent to any treatment given

Continued

- After being taken out by his mother and stepfather, he was then placed into another psychiatric facility (Silver Hill Foundation in Connecticut) where his condition was properly treated in conjunction with proper medication and in a matter of weeks his condition rapidly improved. He had begun to make plans to return to everyday life.
- Due to the actions taken place at Chestnut Lodge, Dr.Osheroff suffered loss of his professional standing, and was kept away from his children for a year

What was the Argument?

- Dr.Osheroff claims that he experienced pain and suffering from improper diagnosis by the health care providers, Dr.Manuel Ross and Dr. C.Wesley Dingman. Dr.Osheroff states that due to his treatment and regression, his self-esteem, family and profession suffered.
- Chestnut Lodge argued that there were no laws in place in Maryland at the time stating that consent was needed and that their methods were widely used for depression.

Why was this case Important?

- Osheroff vs. Chestnut Lodge (April 10th 1985) is considered the landmark case for informed consent to psychotherapy