

**METRO DIGEST**

# Panel to investigate charges teens forcibly held at drug center

From staff reports

An investigative committee will look into charges that a drug-treatment center in Cobb County has been holding teenagers against their wills.

Attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union and STRAIGHT Inc. agreed to form the committee after conferring with Cobb Superior Court Judge Dorothy Robinson.

Ms. Robinson earlier Thursday threw out two of five writs of habeas corpus filed by the ACLU, which alleged that teenagers were being held in violation of their civil rights at the STRAIGHT center on Austell Road in Marietta.

The lawyers agreed to postpone the three remaining ACLU actions indefinitely during the investigation, which will be performed by persons to be appointed by both parties involved.

Judge Robinson — who ordered the hearings closed — said that “letting the parties resolve this themselves is a lot better than having a knock-down, drag-out fight.”

The judge had dismissed one case on behalf of Travis [redacted], 18, of Dunwoody, after he testified that he had in “no way” been

forcibly detained by STRAIGHT. She then dismissed an action filed for a 17-year-old girl who now lives in Florida, according to STRAIGHT attorney Robert Grayson.