

Runaway Girl, Found In South Lebanon, Is Returned To Detention

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Joanne Wilson's anger at the system that allowed her daughter to walk the streets turned to relief Saturday night when the 16-year-old runaway was apprehended in South Lebanon.

Lisa [redacted] had been missing since Friday when she mistakenly was permitted to walk away from the county juvenile detention center where she had been held since running away in late March.

Because of her drug problem, which

and started six years earlier, Wilson had enrolled her daughter last July in Straight, Inc., a Florida-based drug rehabilitation program with a branch near Milford. Lisa's progress there warranted her transfer in January to a private foster home in Wyoming and enrollment in Wyoming High School as part of the program.

LISA RAN away in late March, hitchhiking a ride north on Interstate 71 to Lebanon. Wilson signed a warrant to have her daughter apprehended. On March 28 Lisa

carried herself in to Lebanon police.

The court hearing held Friday was to determine where the girl now should be placed. And although a court referee ruled she should be turned over to Straight officials, the wording of the decision resulted in the girl being released from custody.

Wilson, who was enroute to Cincinnati, arrived after the hearing had ended and her daughter had been released.

Wilson said her first reaction to her daughter's disappearance was fear. Lisa is from a small town in Michigan. She

can't see smart the way some kids are. She doesn't know her way around a big city like Cincinnati," she said.

Police said Lisa, following her release, made her way to South Lebanon and called her older sister Saturday.

"SHE WANTED her older sister to come from Michigan and pick her up in South Lebanon," said Wyoming police officer Bill Bridgford.

But the daughter in Michigan phoned the mother at an Oxford motel, and another daughter, who was staying with her mother, called Wyoming police at

10:45 p.m. Saturday informing them that Lisa could be found in South Lebanon.

"We then called South Lebanon and we responded and picked Lisa up at 11:57 p.m.," said Bridgford.

Lisa is again being held at the Hamilton County Juvenile Detention Home, 2020 Auburn Ave., pending a 9 a.m. hearing today before Juvenile Judge John F. Connor, who has ordered an investigation of the girl's release.

Wilson, who visited her daughter Sunday, said her views on the merits of the Straight program haven't changed.