

# Father Drops Criminal Charges Against His Teen-Aged Daughter

BY GEORGENE KALEINA

Enquirer Reporter

A criminal damaging charge has been dropped against Cyndi [REDACTED] after the teen-ager agreed she would not take any civil or criminal action against her parents or Straight Inc., a drug rehabilitation program in Clermont County.

Her father, Robert [REDACTED], a Clermont County attorney, confirmed Friday that he asked county prosecutors to drop the criminal damaging charge he filed against his daughter after she broke a bathroom window in his Mount Carmel home.

In exchange for dropping the charge this week, [REDACTED] said his 18-year-old daughter signed a release which would prevent her from filing any claims, demands or causes of action against him and his wife, Sherry, or the drug program.

Miss [REDACTED] claimed she broke the window in an attempt to "escape" from her parents' home at 4 a.m. May 2. [REDACTED] swore out the warrant six hours later.

The young woman contended the escape climaxed a two-month period when she was held against her will in Straight, a strict, Florida-based

intensive drug rehabilitation program established in Clermont County four months ago. Both her parents and Jerry Rushing, Straight program director, denied she was "forced" into the program.

"I asked that the charges be dropped partly because I was receiving pressure from my wife," [REDACTED] said Friday.

Last week, [REDACTED] said he filed the charge in hopes his daughter could be convicted and the terms of her probation could be that she'd be court-ordered back into Straight.

"The purpose of filing the charges didn't seem possible at this time, so I had nothing to gain," [REDACTED] said Friday.

Miss [REDACTED] who recently got a job and is living in Butler County, was not available for comment Friday. But Jonathan Schiff, her attorney, said his client was "pleased" with the dismissal.

Last week, Miss [REDACTED] contended she has been off drugs for more than a year. She charged her parents put her in Straight because they opposed her choice of a lesbian lifestyle.

Her parents countered that was not true and said she was in Straight because of a drug problem.