

Rehabilitation center cleared

Straight Inc., a drug rehabilitation center in Clermont County, is functional and legitimate, according to a state official who investigated complaints that the center may have violated some clients' rights.

The Ohio Bureau of Drug Abuse released a report Monday on a three-day investigation conducted at Straight in May. The American Civil Liberties Union in Cincinnati had asked for the investigation.

Straight has been operating in Mt. Repose since Jan. 6, when 55 youngsters were transferred from Straight's headquarters in

St. Petersburg, Fla. Straight uses intensive counseling, peer pressure and a strictly guarded lifestyle to change drug-oriented attitudes of youngsters in the program.

"In my opinion, the program is a functional, legitimate program," Stewart Bell, director of the drug abuse bureau, said Monday.

Bell said he and two other investigators interviewed staff members, clients and parents, and also arbitrarily picked client files to study.