

Woman's child theft charge dropped

By Nancy Berlier
Post Staff Reporter

LEBANON — Charges that a Maineville woman "stole" her child from a Milford rehabilitation center Saturday were dropped Tuesday, and the woman left the Warren County Courthouse with her 13-year-old son.

Patricia Wynne, [redacted] and her ex-husband, Walter "Jack" Wynne, [redacted] worked out an agreement regarding custody of their son, said Robert Olson, referee in the Domestic Relations Division of Warren County Common Pleas Court.

WYNNE'S ATTORNEY, Kathy H. Revelson, attempted to bar the press from the courtroom. Olson never ruled on that motion, because the agreement was reached in out-of-court conferences and no hearing was held.

However, Olson said, "Part of the agreement is not to talk about the case anymore. They made an agreement as to custody. This deal for the benefit of the child."

Wynne had been granted custody of the 13-year-old and had placed the youth in Straight Inc., a drug rehabilitation program in the Clermont County community of Mt. Pleasant.

Mrs. Wynne contended in previous court proceedings that Straight had deceived her, saying she had her son placed out to the program because he had no drug problem.

STRAIGHT HAD been dismissed as a party to the custody action before Tuesday's hearing. However, an \$80,000 civil lawsuit alleging two Straight employees assaulted Mrs. Wynne during a custody hearing July 1 has not been dismissed. That lawsuit was filed against two unnamed Straight employees and Wynne.

Before negotiations began Tuesday morning, Mrs. Wynne said her son "escaped" from Straight Saturday.

Mrs. Wynne refused to discuss how her

son left the program or the child stealing allegations.

Straight is a five-phase program in which youngsters are taken from their homes and placed in the homes of youngsters in higher phases of the program. As a youth progresses through the program and begins to change his attitudes about drug dependency, he earns the right to return home, Straight staff members said.

Straight director Edward Stach said he would not comment on the case at Mrs. Revelson's request.

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Mrs. Wynne contended in previous court proceedings that Straight had denied her visiting rights and her son should not be in the program because he had no drug problem.

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