

# Activists, drug program will split sale proceeds

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A \$1 million fight among anti-drug activists was settled last week with everyone getting something.

At stake is the property and building owned by Straight Inc. at 1074 Branch Hill-Guinea Pike in the Milford area.

Local donors bought it for Straight's stern substance abuse programs; it closed two years ago amid rising controversies and falling funds.

Some contributors feared the building would be sold and the money used elsewhere, so attorney Gerald W. Simmons filed a suit in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati to prevent that.

He asked Chief Judge Carl B. Rubin to make sure sale proceeds went to other Tri-state anti-drug campaigners.

Straight's local group and Florida-based national organization fought back, saying it wanted the proceeds for surviving programs elsewhere.

Moreover, Straight attorney D. Michael Post said there might be no proceeds,

with so many creditors waiting for the money and three other suits in the courts.

Rubin certified the donors' suit as a class action.

Terms of the settlement:

■ The Miami Township property, worth \$1 million or more, will be sold subject to Rubin's approval.

■ After attorneys' fees, sales expenses, closing costs and maintenance since July 27 are paid, half of the remainder goes to Straight.

■ Greater Cincinnati Foundation gets the rest for Tri-state drug treatment programs for juveniles and adolescents.

■ Simmons and other class action attorneys share \$62,000.

The public can comment on the settlement's fairness at a hearing at 9 a.m. Sept. 28 in the U.S. Post Office & Courthouse at Fifth and Main streets in Cincinnati.

Written objections must be filed with the Clerk of Courts by Sept. 20. The clerk's office in the federal courthouse has copies of the settlement.