

## DRUG REHAB YOUTHS FACE ASSAULT CHARGES

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Four youths in a drug rehabilitation program face adult lewd assault charges against a fifth youth over a February incident in a Palm Beach Gardens home.

The five males were part of the Lake Worth-based Growing Together Inc. adolescent drug treatment program, which assigns groups of youths to "host" homes at night. Prosecutors say four of the youths held down the victim and assaulted him in a "lewd, lascivious or indecent manner ... without committing the crime of sexual battery."

Charged in the case were Philip [REDACTED], 17, of Tampa; Joey [REDACTED], 17, of West Palm Beach; Sean [REDACTED], 16, of Lake Worth; and George [REDACTED] 16, of Palm Beach Gardens. All are pleading not guilty.

Police say the incident happened at [REDACTED] home.

The victim, a male under 16, told Growing Together staff about the incident in June and was encouraged by staff to tell police, Growing Together Executive Director Mickey Bowman said. Bowman said the staff also notified the state's Department of Children and Families.

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