

MAN SUES PARENTS, TREATMENT CENTER

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A 19-year-old man has filed suit in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, seeking \$8 million from his parents and a Cincinnati-based treatment center for the treatment of emotional problems.

John [REDACTED] charges false imprisonment and intentional infliction of emotional harm in the suit against Ezekial and Lois [REDACTED] and Kids Helping Kids.

Attorney D. Timothy Huey, who filed the suit, said the charges are based on a period of time John [REDACTED] was held after reaching his 18th birthday on May 16, 1985.

"HE WAS told that there was a court order committing him until he was 21 years old," Huey said. "As far as I have been able to discover, there was no such court order."

The suit says Kids Helping Kids is an organization to provide counseling and treatment to juveniles with emotional problems, often related to alcohol or drug abuse.

The suit said juveniles are not allowed to leave, to make telephone calls, or to receive visitors without permission. It said they are taken to a counseling center in the daytime and are confined to the homes of members of the organization at night.

The suit said that on April 1, 1985, John [REDACTED] was taken to the Kids Helping Kids compound in Hebron, Ky., by his parents. It says that in the evenings he was taken to homes in Hamilton County, Ohio, where he was forcibly detained by locked windows and doors and physical force.

Huey said that on his 18th birthday, John [REDACTED] demanded to be freed or to be allowed to talk to an attorney, and was told there was a commitment order until he was 21 years old.

He said that later his parents took him home, but told him such an order was in effect. He said John [REDACTED] learned Aug. 19, 1985, that there was no such court order and left the confinement.

"He is working in a bait store now in exchange for a place to stay," Huey said.

He said John [REDACTED] told him that his problems started when he was treated with "downers" (depressants) for hyperactivity.

HUEY SAID John [REDACTED] told him that he once had dogs, but that when it was learned he was allergic to them, he obtained an alligator as a pet. While still a teen-ager, he developed a business raising and selling lizards to pet stores, the lawyer said.

"I asked him if he was sure he wanted to sue his parents, and he said if that is the only way to get to Kids Helping Kids, he wanted to do it," Huey said.

He said that in a legal interpretation it might be held that the organization was acting as agent for the parents.

The suit asks \$3 million each from his parents and Kids Helping Kids for false imprisonment and \$1 million from each for negligent or intentional infliction of emotional harm.

Ezekial [REDACTED] was told about the suit but refused to comment; he said he had not received a copy of the suit.

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