

STRAIGHT INC. WORKS

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I READ the article about the drug treatment center in trouble with the state. I would like to tell you a parent's side about the coming forfeiture of the license for Straight Inc. in Orlando.

I have two children in the program. We entered the program one year ago. I knew that it was the toughest treatment center in the state of Florida, but I knew that this was what it would take to get my kids off drugs. Other forms of treatment had failed. My children were suicidal, very sullen, irritable, had no self-discipline and were in trouble with the law.

I feel that Straight Inc. is in compliance with Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services regulations. My children are well taken care of. Few of the upper clients were interviewed to state what Straight has done for them. When parents asked HRS why, the response was that they have to request a meeting to talk to the officials.

I think it is very unfair that they were not given equal say. Newcomers are still in denial of their drug problems, and will do anything to get out of treatment. My children did not want to be at Straight when they were admitted. This is why long-term treatment worked for us.

My family is happy and productive once again. I only hope Straight Inc. stays open so others can get the kind of help that we received. Orlando is fortunate to have such a treatment center to help fight this terrible war on drugs.

Patricia S. Rundgren ST. AUGUSTINE

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