

DRUG CENTER DIRECTOR, SIX STAFFERS FACE TRIAL

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An Aug. 20 trial was set yesterday for the director of Possibilities Unlimited and six of his staff workers, all of whom face misdemeanor charges of unlawful imprisonment.

Possibilities Unlimited, at 2628 Wilhite Drive, is a drug rehabilitation and counseling center for young drug users and their families.

The center's founder and director, George Ross, and staff workers ██████ Powell, ██████ Powell, ██████ Polkamp, ██████ Haggerty, J ██████ Edwards and ██████ Fleming will be tried before a jury in Fayette District Judge John Adams' court.

Ross and the others are accused of physically restraining several participants in the program from leaving the center's headquarters.

Ross is charged with five counts of unlawful imprisonment, a Class A misdemeanor. Each count carries a penalty of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$500. Each of the staff workers is charged with one count of unlawful imprisonment.

The charges stem from criminal complaints filed last month by some of those enrolled in the program and the parents of several others. In the complaints, the parents contend that their children were held in locked rooms against their will and sometimes were threatened with arrest or institutionalization if they left.

A female who was enrolled in the program said in her complaint that she was restrained from leaving the premises under threats that officials would take her child from her on ground that she was an unfit mother.

The trial date was set during a pretrial conference between prosecutors and attorneys for the defendants.

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