

PARENTS SAY CHILDREN HELD UNLAWFULLY IN TREATMENT

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The director of a Lexington residential drug treatment program has been summoned to appear in Fayette District Court to hear complaints from parents that he unlawfully imprisoned their children, Lexington police Lt. John Bizzack said yesterday.

Dr. George Ross and five to seven staff members of Possibilities Unlimited, 2628 Wilhite Drive, received the summonses late Thursday and early yesterday to appear, said Bizzack, who heads the crimes-against-children unit.

Larry Roberts, the lawyer for Possibilities Unlimited, said the summonses were the equivalent of charges being filed against Ross and the staff members. They will appear in court Wednesday, Roberts said.

Unlawful imprisonment is a Class A misdemeanor with penalties ranging from one to 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$500, Roberts said.

The parents filed reports with police detailing seven separate incidents in which Ross allegedly imprisoned their children unlawfully, Bizzack said.

Detectives Jim Castano and Pat Taylor investigated the complaints, but Fayette District Court issued the summonses, he said.

Copies of the summonses were not available from district court last night.

The children whose parents made the complaints are no longer in the program, Bizzack said.

Ross and Roberts said last night that they would not comment on the charges until the case had been decided in court.

Ross arranged for reporters to meet with other parents whose children were in the program and supported it.

"The people who complained obviously misunderstand the nature of the program," said Carl Ross, a candidate for councilman at large whose son is in the program. Carl Ross and George Ross are not related, Carl Ross said.

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