

UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT CHARGES ENDED AGAINST 3 AT HELP CENTER

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- Author/Byline: Valarie Honeycutt Herald-Leader staff writer
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An agreement has been reached to dismiss unlawful imprisonment charges against three employees of Possibilities Unlimited, a Fayette County prosecutor said yesterday.

"Based upon the proof that we have, we decided to dismiss the charges against the three," Assistant Fayette County Attorney Jack Giles said.

The three were identified as [REDACTED] Powell, [REDACTED] Edwards and [REDACTED] Powell.

After an eight-day trial in Fayette District Court last month, the drug treatment program's founder and director, George Ross, was cleared of unlawful-imprisonment charges brought by three people who said they had been held in the program against their will.

Three other people, including two whom Ross identified as program participants and not staff members, still face unlawful imprisonment charges.

A November trial date is expected for the other three, who are charged with a misdemeanor that carries a punishment of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$500.

Of the decision to dismiss the charges against the three employees, Ross said: "This is further evidence that Possibilities Unlimited never has nor never will abuse kids. It is further evidence that Possibilities Unlimited has been vindicated of allegations made against them.

"We are now hopeful that we can get on with doing what Possibilities Unlimited is here for, to help young people harmfully involved in drugs to redirect their lives along positive avenues," Ross said last night.

Earlier in the week, the program's board of directors decided that Possibilities Unlimited would remain open despite financial problems.

Ross and several board members have said that publicity from the trial has frightened off potential clients.

Ross has said that no significant changes are planned for treatment procedures in the program.

Restraint policies and documenting procedures that are used when a child is signed into the program are being "fine-tuned" but remain basically the same, Ross has told the Lexington Herald-Leader.

And since January, he has said, he has had assistance from a psychiatrist and a pediatrician in making determinations about program participants.

The Cabinet for Human Resources has also investigated the program and the findings have been relayed to Ross.

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