

## CHARGES AGAINST 3 IN DRUG-CENTER CASE DROPPED

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Charges of unlawful imprisonment were dismissed yesterday against three people who had been accused of holding a Frankfort youth in a Lexington drug rehabilitation program against his will.

The charges were dismissed after the complaining witness, █████ Mullins, now a 19-year-old college student, failed to show up for court. Mullins had filed a criminal complaint against the three defendants, contending that they forcibly held him at Possibilities Unlimited against his will.

The three defendants - █████ Polkamp, a staff member at Possibilities Unlimited, and █████ Fleming and █████ Haggerty, both of whom were enrolled in the program, were to stand trial yesterday in Fayette District Court on the charges.

However, when Mullins failed to show up, defense attorney Ken Smith moved for a dismissal of the charges, and Judge Lewis Paisley sustained the motion.

Fayette County Assistant Attorney Kevin Horne, who was to prosecute the case, said that without Mullins "there's no way I could have gone forward."

█████ Polkamp, Fleming and Haggerty were among seven people, including Possibilities Unlimited director George Ross, who were charged last summer with holding young people in the controversial drug rehabilitation program against their wills. Ross stood trial in September in district court, and after an eight-day trial he was acquitted of three unlawful-imprisonment charges.

A few weeks later, prosecutors dismissed the charges against three of Ross' staff employees who also faced charges of unlawful imprisonment. That left only █████ Polkamp, Fleming and Haggerty to stand trial.

In his criminal complaint, Mullins contended that Fleming and Haggerty, who like himself were clients in Possibilities Unlimited, came to his house in Frankfort on Feb. 24, forcibly carried him to their car and transported him back to Possibilities Unlimited's headquarters on Wilhite Drive in Lexington. █████ Polkamp allegedly helped get Mullins into the building.

Testimony at Ross' trial showed that Mullins had been fighting with his father and that the father had called for someone to get his son.

Ross said the latest dismissal, along with his acquittal, was "further evidence to show that Possibilities Unlimited never has nor ever intends to abuse kids in our facility.

"Furthermore, it removes any doubt that Possibilities Unlimited or myself was involved in any wrongdoing," he said.

After court yesterday, Horne said car trouble might have prevented Mullins from being in court. Horne said he talked yesterday with Mullins' grandmother, who told him that her grandson's car had sustained damage to its interior from a fire on Monday.

Mullins, a freshman at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, could not be reached for comment.

After dismissing the charge, Paisley ordered that a show-cause summons be issued for Mullins. That means that Mullins will have to appear in Paisley's court to show why he should not be held in contempt of court for failing to show up to testify. No date has been set for Mullins' court appearance.

Horne said he was "extremely disappointed" that the charges were dismissed, adding that he had spent more than 60 hours preparing for the trial.

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