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Judge Refuses Request to Transfer Suit Against **Drug Treatment Program**

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A federal judge refused a request Friday by **Straight** Inc. to transfer a \$750,000 lawsuit against the controversial **drug** treatment program from Alexandria to southern Florida.

Lawyers for **Straight** argued the complaint, brought by a 20-year-old Fairfax County man who alleges he was held in the program against his will, should be heard in federal court in Tampa, near the organization's St. Petersburg headquarters.

The move was opposed by attorney Philip Hirschkop, who contended that plaintiff Fred Collins was held at **Straight** facilities in both Florida and Northern Virginia.

After a 30-minute hearing in Alexandria, District Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr. sided with Hirschkop. "It's true many of the alleged events occurred in Florida," said Bryan, "but many of those who can testify to what happened in Florida are now here."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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