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Request for Ban on Rehabilitation Methods Is Denied

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An Alexandria federal judge has declined to issue a court order banning a Florida-based **drug** rehabilitation program's controversial peer-pressure techniques.

Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr. Friday denied a request by 20-year-old Fred Collins of Alexandria, who was awarded \$220,000 damages from **Straight, Inc.** in May, for an injunction prohibiting use of methods that Collins' attorneys claimed were physically and psychologically damaging.

Lawyers for Straight said yesterday that Bryan's decision was "the bigger victory."

"What the jury said was that one thing happened to one kid at one time," said Straight attorney Ronald L. Goldfarb.

"But Collins called into question the techniques of the whole program.

Somebody can fall down in the Vatican and get damages, but that doesn't call Catholicism into question."

Collins persuaded a federal jury that he had been falsely imprisoned for more than four months by the group, which operates a facility in Springfield, but was unable to prove assault charges against the program. Collins was awarded \$40,000 in compensatory and \$180,000 in punitive damages.

Goldfarb said that Straight will appeal the award.

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