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## Probe of **Straight** Announced

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A Virginia health department official said yesterday the state will investigate **Straight** Inc. after a federal jury found a 20-year-old man had been held against his will by the **drug** rehabilitation group.

Dr. Mort Chassen, an assistant commissioner of the Virginia Department of Health and Mental Retardation, said the jury's decision Thursday prompted the **Straight** probe.

The state, which licenses the **Straight** program in Springfield, will meet with the program's officials, Chassen said. No date for the meeting was announced.

Dr. Mel Riddile, program director of the Springfield branch, said the state "hasn't told us anything. They can come up here any time." He said **Straight** has nothing to hide and encourages visitors.

A federal jury in Alexandria found Thursday that the group falsely imprisoned Fred Collins while he was in the treatment program for five months last year. But the jury rejected Collins' contention he had been physically and mentally abused.

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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