

DRUG TREATMENT CENTER CEASES VA. OPERATIONS

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A private treatment center that used controversial mental and physical techniques to keep children from using drugs has stopped operating in Virginia.

Straight Inc. dropped its attempt to regain a Virginia operating license, choosing instead to transfer the program to nearby Columbia, Md., Straight Inc. spokeswoman Joy Margolis said.

The program houses clients with host families, usually parents of children already in treatment.

The program has until Aug. 6 to find new housing for its clients, the state agency that oversees the program said. The state will file suit against any host home still operating in Virginia after that date.

The program, which faced allegations of patient abuse, was to have a hearing on progress to correct state licensing violations today.

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