

## ANTI-DRUG CENTER SUED AGAIN

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A man who claims the controversial drug rehabilitation program Straight Inc. falsely imprisoned him has become the third former client in one month to sue the facility.

Michael [REDACTED] of St. Petersburg filed suit against Straight Friday in connection with two months he spent at the program's St. Petersburg headquarters last year.

[REDACTED], 23, contends in the suit he was forced to join Straight in late March 1982 and was kept there until early May.

The suit says [REDACTED] was confined even though he "was neither addicted to, nor using any, drugs."

The suit charges Straight with assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, negligence and malpractice.

[REDACTED] is asking for more than \$25,000 in damages.

William D. Oliver, executive director at Straight, said he had not seen the lawsuit and would not comment on it. Oliver was not working for Straight at the time of [REDACTED] stay there.

"We'll assign this to our insurance company and they will assign an attorney," Oliver said. "So we'll respond to it when we get served."

Straight, which some drug abuse experts consider the best program in the nation for young drug abusers, achieved national recognition in 1982 when First Lady Nancy Reagan visited there.

Straight's treatment method is based on intense, prolonged group confrontation therapy. That has brought criticism from those who believe the program deprives clients of basic civil liberties.

Critics also say Straight subjects clients to mental and physical abuse and is successful essentially because it brainwashes them.

Early this year, Straight lost one lawsuit filed by a former client and settled two others out of court. All the plaintiffs maintained they were illegally detained.

Last month, two brothers sued after a stay in the Sarasota branch.

[REDACTED] said in the suit the treatment is "designed and calculated to cause severe emotional distress and injury." He also charges that the program was negligent in supervising employees.

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