

JUDGE SIDES WITH PARENTS

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A judge has ruled that parents can force minor children into drug-treatment programs without their consent. Attorneys for the state, however, argue that the decision ignores recent rulings on children's rights.

The ruling by Circuit Judge Charles Miner of Tallahassee was issued last week in favor of Straight Inc., a nationally known drug treatment program based in St. Petersburg that has been fighting with state officials for several years.

Theodore Mack, an attorney for the HRS, said the state will appeal the ruling.

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