

## Drug-treatment center must remain closed, judge rules

Orange County Register, The (Santa Ana, CA) (Published as The Orange County Register) - August 4, 1990

Author/Byline: The Orange County Register

Edition: EVENINGSection: METROPage: B08

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge turned down an appeal by Straight Inc. on Friday to allow the controversial drug-treatment program to remain open while it seeks a license.

The state Department of Social Services denied Straight's Yorba Linda program a license two months ago based on allegations that participants were subjected to various abuses.

Last month, the state found that the program broke the law by continuing to operate without a license.

Since then, officials from Straight and the state have been in negotiations to work out the problems.

During Friday's hearing in Department 88, Straight asked the judge to allow it to resume the program so treatment of the participants would not be interrupted, said Carol Scott, an attorney representing Straight.

The judge turned down the request Friday, but agreed to another hearing Aug. 22 to consider the matter more fully, Scott said.

Straight's request that the state outline exactly what the treatment program must do to qualify for a license was granted, Scott said.

The Yorba Linda program had been providing about 60 people, mostly adolescents, a structured counseling program that included placing them with host families.

Because of housing arrangements, the program needed a foster-family agency license. It was denied after allegations that teen-age clients were subjected to intimidation, ridicule and mental abuse, and were deprived of food and sleep.

Memo: 'MCR

Index terms: DRUGS; AID; RULING; ORANGE COUNTY

Record: OCR276121

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