

# Christ Circle's Accusation Gets Nowhere In Court

The controversial Christ Circle community was accused of attempting "to fog up the issues" by a deputy Attorney General who been accused by Christ Circle officials of not allowing them their day in court.

The Deputy Attorney General in question, Ralph Johnson of San Francisco, was cleared by Superior Court Judge Rollie Hall Friday, however. Hall refused to charge Johnson with the contempt of court because Christ Circle's attorney, James Coyle, hadn't properly certified the contempt action.

During the same court hearing, Christ Circle was ordered to tear down two classroom buildings which the county has charged were constructed illegally. That ruling will not be enforced until after a June 2

hearing.

In defending himself, Johnson stated, "This is surely and clearly an attempt to fog up the issue on Christ Circle's own contempt proceedings. It's pure, unadulterated harassment."

The Christ Circle community was found in contempt of court by Hall earlier for continuing to construct buildings after the court had ordered a halt to construction. The county has charged the buildings were put up without the proper permits.

Christ Circle claimed Johnson was in contempt of court because he delayed a May 15 hearing on Christ Circle's request to be licensed by the State Health Department as a residential care facility for 30 children.

On Dec. 14, 1976, the Depart-

ment of Health turned down Christ Circle's application to care for the 30 emotionally disturbed children, and Christ Circle has been trying ever since to get a hearing on the denial.

Johnson delayed the administrative hearing of May 15 delayed because he said records of children served by Christ Circle weren't made available to him as ordered by the court.

"I'm asking for the records so we can use them at the administrative hearing," Johnson told Judge Hall. "The question is if they have the facility to handle 30 emotionally disturbed children. I need the records to know what children are being served there and how many."

Coyle told the court, "The records are available. They have been. They are at the

facility."

He claimed that he had set up a meeting with Johnson on May 12 at 2 p.m. at Christ Circle to review the records before the May 15 hearing. Coyle explained he arrived at 2:15 p.m. and Johnson had already left.

Hall, last December, ordered Christ Circle to make available all records of children that were at the facility on Dec. 5, 1977 and for the Attorney General's office to file an accusation against Christ Circle.

Since the accusation was filed in December and the records, according to Christ Circle, are available, the administrative hearing on the licensing is now set to begin Monday in San Francisco.

In the contempt of court action against Christ Circle, the community was ordered to tear

down the illegally constructed buildings. Hall delayed this part of the order until a June 2 hearing, but enforced the order which calls for Christ Circle to stop using the buildings as classrooms and to remove all furniture.

Hall also decided that the three Christ Circle workers convicted of contempt were indigent and wouldn't be jailed if they didn't pay their fines.

Terrence Martin and Laurence Etheredge were fined \$500 each and given five days in jail and Joshua Allen was fined \$2,000 and given 20 days in jail.

Martin and Etheredge have completed their jail sentences,

but Allen still has 15 days left on his 20-day sentence.

Hall granted a stay of execu-

tion on Allen's sentence until June 26 at 10 a.m. He said that the Christ Circle worker must put a stay on Allen's sentence, if a higher court doesn't also return to jail at this time.



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