

State Takes License From Christ Circle

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Charges that children were taken off medication without a doctor's approval were among the findings that prompted removal of Christ Circle school's

license to care for mentally-disordered children, the state Attorney General's office announced today.

A total of 30 to 40 violations, including charges that buildings were not fire safe, were uncovered at the Boulder Creek

facility, according to Ralph Johnson, deputy attorney general in San Francisco.

A federal judge issued a 12-page decision which revoked the school's license as of Aug. 30.

The decision means the school cannot receive state and federal funding for the care of mentally-disordered children.

Dr. Arthur Hempel, chairman of the board at the controversial school, said the allegations "were unproven" and an appeal is pending.

The school, located on Kings Creek Road, has been the center of controversy for both state and county officials.

The county has had a running battle with the school over two illegally-constructed buildings.

According to Johnson, some

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30 to 40 violations of state regulations governing facilities for the mentally-disordered were discovered at the school.

All of the violations were "serious," he said.

Charges of corporal punishment to children at the school were denied by the judge, Johnson said.

The school had a license to care for six mentally-disordered children. That license is the one affected by the current decision.

School officials also had applied to increase the number of students to 30. That request was denied, said Johnson.

Hempel today said there are currently 39 children living at the school. He said only a few would be affected by the decision.

Johnson said he did not know how many would be affected. One of the problems with the school, he said, was that officials refused to disclose from where children at the school were coming.

Only one student currently is receiving federal or state funding through the county Office of Education, according to Richard Struck, administrative assistant at that office.

However, he said in the past there were more students receiving aid from the local office of education at the school.