

AIDS group suing Gilsum, NH, officials

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KEENE, N.H. (AP) - A Keene (New Hampshire) AIDS services agency says it's suing Gilsum town officials, accusing them of illegally restricting who's allowed to live at a group home run by the agency.

AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region alleges that the officials overstepped their authority and violated the state Constitution regarding the Cleve Jones Wellness House, a residential center for people living with AIDS, HIV or chronic illness, or recovering from drug or alcohol addiction.

In 2006 the agency was granted a variance of a town ordinance that allowed it to open the house, but the town's planning and zoning boards added nearly 30 conditions to that approval.

Earlier this year, Gilsum officials filed a lawsuit against the agency alleging its officials had violated several of the conditions, including allowing a convicted sex offender to live at the house for several months. The agency said the conviction did not appear in a criminal background check.

Information from: The Keene Sentinel, <http://www.keenesentinel.com>

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