

Synanon's Center In Westport Ruled A Zoning Violator

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HARTFORD, Jan. 25 — The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled today that the Synanon Foundation could no longer use a 20-room mansion in the exclusive Greens Farms residential section of Westport as a rehabilitation center for narcotics addicts.

In a unanimous decision, written by Associate Justice John P. Cotter, the Supreme Court ordered the Common Pleas Court in Fairfield County to issue an injunction against the nonprofit foundation "within a reasonable time."

It ruled that the lower court had erred in failing to find the haven for addicts in violation of a zoning law limiting the area to one-family occupancy. It stressed that the ruling concerned itself only with the zoning law, not with the merits of Synanon's program.

The center, many of whose patients have had criminal records, has been a center of controversy since its establishment in Westport three years ago.

The Town Planning and Zoning Commission has been trying for more than two years to oust the rehabilitation center from its Victorian mansion, contending that the triple-A zone permits only one family to occupy a lot. The high court said that the addicts could not be considered "one family."

A Synanon spokesman said in Westport that the organization had no comment on the Supreme Court decision. He said there were at present 16 persons living in the center, five as permanent residents and 11 waiting to be sent to the main center in California.