

# Battered wives ordered out

About 10 homeless women and children must leave an overcrowded Hackensack shelter for victims of unstable marriages by 9 a.m. tomorrow, Superior Court Judge Theodore W. Trautwein ruled yesterday.

Welfare Director George Yidi said he would meet with county and local officials today to arrange temporary accommodations for the women and their children, now housed in the Save Our Sisters (SOS) shelter.

"We don't know how successful we will be in making the deadline," he said. "But we will try."

If the local welfare department is unable to meet the deadline, the court order could be dissolved. A hearing on a request for a permanent restraining order to limit the number of occupants of the shelter is scheduled for April 28.

Trautwein ruled that SOS could house only eight persons because of the city's occupancy requirements.

## 17 residents

About 17 persons were living in the shelter yesterday, including owner Sandy Ramos and her three children. Ms. Ramos said she would support the relocation as long as the women and children were assured of a place to live.

"We've been trying to get towns to provide shelters for years," she said. "But if they don't find them, we are not going to throw people out in the street."

Ms. Ramos, who began sharing her home with broken families after her divorce eight years ago, still faces charges next month in municipal court

for not obeying local occupancy laws.

The summonses were delivered yesterday after Ms. Ramos refused a city order to close the building because of alleged overcrowding and zoning violations.

The city is charging that in addition to allowing too many people to live in the home, Ms. Ramos has been operating a business in a residential zone.

## Negligence suit planned

Both charges have been rejected by Ms. Ramos and her attorney, Rosemarie Truland. They are planning to sue the city for negligence — for failure to protect battered wives — if it doesn't provide its own shelter soon.

The women are also contemplating legal action against the county and other Bergen towns to force them to sponsor their own shelters for battered wives and children.

Ed Testa, director of the county Welfare Board, said that his agency could help find temporary homes but couldn't give financial assistance unless the women were already on welfare. A woman with one child qualifies if she earns less than \$235 a month.

The Board of Freeholders, meanwhile, has supported the idea of a county shelter, but has tried to avoid involvement in the dispute.

Yidi said he would first get in touch with the home towns of those women at SOS who needed immediate shelter, but that he hoped later to encourage all Bergen communities to start their own shelters.

"All the towns eventually will be involved," he said. "But if we start at a small level at first, we might get more accomplished."