

## Officials backed Prozac mailings, fired Lilly workers claim in suit

Associated Press

MIAMI — Three fired Eli Lilly & Co. employees filed a defamation lawsuit against the drug maker yesterday, claiming they lost their jobs to cover up a management push to revive Prozac sales through unsolicited mailings.

Lilly, of Indianapolis, disciplined eight workers, including the three fired employees, in July after investigating unsolicited mailings of the antidepressant drug to people in

South Florida. One of the recipients was a 16-year-old boy who had never taken Prozac.

Lilly has apologized for the mailings but said it did not sanction them. Calls to Lilly and senior employees listed in the lawsuit were not returned.

The suit, filed in Broward Circuit Court, seeks at least \$15,000 in damages. It claims the program had corporate support and was used at least three times before without complaint or publicity.

The mailings generated a huge

controversy and are being investigated by the office of Florida's attorney general. Assistant Attorney General John Newton, who heads the investigation, had no comment yesterday on the suit. But he said subpoenas turned up evidence of "a corporate-wide, extraordinarily aggressive push" to switch users to weekly Prozac.

One recipient has filed an invasion of privacy suit against Lilly, Walgreen, the drug store that sent the drug, and her doctors.

## Lilly plans to shift 700 in jobs next year

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Eli Lilly and Co. plans to eliminate 700 jobs next year but will shift affected employees into newly created jobs as part of its no-layoff tradition.

"We expect to have a job for everyone whose job goes away," Lilly President Sidney Taurel told The Indianapolis Star after announcing the restructuring yesterday in a live video talk to employees.

About 600 people who will be switched to new jobs work in Indianapolis, where the drug maker is headquartered. They will be given the first shots at taking 1,500 to 2,000 new or vacant jobs that Lilly aims to fill in the next year.

Jobs to be eliminated by the end of April were identified as unneeded or redundant, Taurel said. The majority are in global product teams, marketing, research and development, information technology, hu-

man resources and finance.

Cutting them will save Lilly about \$150 million a year, he said.

Employees who are switched to a job that pays less will continue to draw their current salary for two years, he said. A small number of employees, especially in sales, might be faced with moving out of state to new jobs, Taurel said.

Employees who choose to leave Lilly rather than take a different job will get severance pay and help in finding another job.