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Former Rolla priest facing ~~the~~ sex charges 8/9

By **Angela Middleton**
Staff Writer

A former Rolla clergyman is being accused of sexual abuse of a minor in a Cole County Circuit Court civil suit, according to St. Louis Attorney Michael Hoare.

Father John Whiteley, who served at University of Missouri-Rolla's Newman Center in the late sixties is charged with Battery, clergy malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, respondeat superior.

The 34-year-old man seeking a jury trial spoke with the Daily News and identified himself only as David, because of "immense family complications."

According to copies of the lawsuit distributed to reporters yesterday, Whiteley, "regularly and repeatedly engaged in unpermitted, harmful and offensive sexual contact, upon the then-minor...John Z. Doe (David)."

The alleged incident occurred when Whiteley was serving at St. Pius X Church in Moberly. He currently serves as chaplain for the Fulton State Hospital, the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics in Columbia and the Newman Center in Columbia.

Other defendants named in the lawsuit were St. Pius X, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City and Bishop Michael McAuliffe.

David said his motives for filing were to send a message to parents.

"They ought to be careful who they trust their children with," he said. "Kids who've been abused need to know that you can file suits like this."

David further stated he was compelled to file the suit after seeing the motion picture "Nuts," with Barbara Streisand, about a victim of sexual abuse.

"I had totally repressed these memories for the bulk of my adult member things when they're forced to and I remembered first, when I got involved in a serious relationship with a woman who is now my wife and after I saw the movie."

Whiteley has also served in churches in Rhineland and Kirksville.