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Police: former priest accused of stalking

WAPPINGERS FALLS, N.Y.

A defrocked priest was arrested after allegedly stalking a man he met in a New York City night club, authorities said.

The Rev. James Tamburrino was charged with multiple counts of second-degree aggravated harassment and third-degree stalking. Tamburrino was accused of making harassing phone calls and sending photos to a man in his 30s from Aug. 16 to Sept. 12, according to complaint papers filed in Wappinger Town Court.

Police obtained a search warrant for Tamburrino's home and seized computers, computer-related equipment and digital photographs Thursday.

Tamburrino left the St. Simon Stock in the Bronx in 2000 after he and three other Carmelite priests were accused of paying a 16-year-old boy who worked as a church secretary for sex between 1996 and 1998.

No criminal charges were filed, but the accusations were made in a civil lawsuit against the Bronx parish and the Carmelite order, based in the town of Walkill.

The parish and the order reached a settlement with the boy's family, said Laurence M. Deutsch, a New York City lawyer who represented the teen. Deutsch declined to discuss the terms of the settlement.

After leaving the Bronx, Tamburrino worked as a chaplain at the Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Center but was removed in June 2001, said the Rev. Michael Driscoll, the prior provincial of the New York Carmelites, a religious order separate from the Archdiocese of New York.

"I removed him because of allegations made in the Bronx. His faculties were removed. He can no longer function as a priest anywhere in the world," Driscoll said.

The Dutchess County District Attorney's Office is investigating.

Tamburrino was remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bail. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 1 1/3 to four years in state prison.