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Former priest given one year of probation for sexual assault

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Father Charles Richmond in court December 22, 2021

CHIPPEWA COUNTY (WQOW) - A former Catholic priest will be on probation for 12 months after being convicted of 4th degree sexual assault.

Charles Richmond, the former chaplain of McDonell Central High School, was sentenced by Judge James Isaacson on Wednesday, who also said Richmond will not be required to register as a sex offender.

"I heard no comments about your effectiveness as a teacher, or priest," judge Isaacson said. "Certainly heard comments about the effect of your actions as a counselor, that's, there's got to be consequences for that."

Originally charged with repeated sexual assault of a child— a felony— Richmond took a plea deal last month, diminishing his charge to a misdemeanor.

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In court on Wednesday, the victim said they are struggling emotionally and mentally to this day.

"Charles Richmond has taken years off my life. I no longer have the ability to look pleasantly back on my high school experience. I have lost the ability to trust others around me, even the simplest things throw me into emotional distress such as the smell of black coffee, which he drank everyday, the green trucks which he drove and anything related to the catholic church," the victim said.

The victim and their parents asked for the maximum sentence, which would have been nine months in jail.

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