

Priest, dad accused of abuse

DETROIT (UPI) — A Grand Rapids priest and the father of two young boys are accused in a lawsuit of sexually abusing the boys on several occasions during the past two years.

No criminal charges have been filed against the Rev. Richard Host, pastor of St. James Catholic Church in Grand Rapids who is named in the Wayne County Circuit Court lawsuit, or the unidentified father of the boys, aged 4 and 6. The suit, filed by the boys' mother who now lives in Kansas, alleges that the boys were abused at various sites in the Grand Rapids area.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids denied the allegations in a statement Wednesday, saying they stem from a domestic dispute between the mother and father of the boys.

Bishop Joseph M. Breitenbeck is among several Grand Rapids area Catholic church and Catholic school officials accused in the lawsuit of trying to cover up the alleged incidents.

Kent County Prosecutor William Forsyth said no criminal charges have been filed in the matter.