
Priest's Arraignment Delayed As Probe Continues

Investigation is continuing into an alleged kidnapping incident involving a Montpelier priest and a 19-year-old Eden man.

Arraignment of The Rev. Richard E. Thompson of Montpelier's St. Augustine Church, scheduled for Tuesday in Vermont District Court in Hyde Park, was postponed to allow further investigation.

Christopher Leopold, acting Lamoille County State's Attorney, said Wednesday no charges have yet been filed against Thompson.

He said investigation will continue at least another week, and no new arraignment date has been set.

The priest, who served as assistant pastor in Montpelier for two years, is now at a Maryland church facility "for helping, caring and correcting problems," according to Rev. Joseph Campbell of St.

Augustine's.

Thompson was arrested by state police Aug. 23, after a young man told Stowe Police Thompson had abducted him at gunpoint from behind the Baggy Knees in Stowe.

The teenager told police he left with Thompson, who eventually pulled off Route 100 and began to rub his leg.

He was allegedly pulled from the car by three friends who had followed.

A passenger in Thompson's car, The Rev. John Hergenrother, was questioned by police and released after the incident.

Thompson was cited on charges of kidnapping, lewd and lascivious conduct, unlawful mischief, and leaving the scene of an accident.
