

Priest pleads not guilty to abuse

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A former Geneva priest Thursday pleaded not guilty to charges that he sexually abused a girl while at St. Peter Catholic Church.

Mark **Campobello**, 37, appeared in court for the first time since his arrest on Dec. 3. He remains free after posting \$7,500 bond and will appear in court again Jan. 30 for a status hearing.

Campobello was arrested after a girl, now 18, came forward with allegations that the priest sexually abused and assaulted her on five occasions between January and May of 1999. The girl, who was 14 at the time, was a student at St. Peter.

Prosecutors and investigators have declined to give details about where the woman alleges the abuse took place, but they've said it all took place within the city of Geneva.

Campobello served as an associate pastor at St. Peter Church in 1994. He was a resident priest and often said Mass at the Geneva church while serving as an assistant principal and spiritual director at Aurora Central Catholic High School from 1997 to 2000.

Following his arrest, he was removed from his most recent post as parochial administrator at St. James parish in Belvidere. **Campobello** also has been removed from his duties in church, officials have said.