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Judge indefinitely bars release of Campobello tapes

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Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA -- A judge has indefinitely barred the release of audio tapes relating to Mark **Campobello** citing Supreme Court rules governing attorneys and the potential juror impact.

The ruling came Monday during a hearing on one of two civil lawsuits filed against the imprisoned former priest by two girls -- referred to as "Jane Doe" and "Jane Roe" -- he has admitted to molesting.

"I'm entering a protective order because we have professional rules of conduct" covering disclosure of case information, Circuit Judge Keith Brown said.

He said the contents of six tapes made by Geneva police during their investigation of **Campobello** "could affect the jury pool."

Attorney Keith Aeschliman, who represents **Campobello's** victims, previously said the tapes include **Campobello** admitting to his involvement with "Jane Doe," but are "mostly uninteresting."

Aeschliman could seek to have Brown's ruling reconsidered.

The lawsuits, which seek more than \$50,000 each, name **Campobello**, the Rockford Diocese and Bishop Thomas Doran.

The diocese and Doran are cited for negligence by failing to

conduct background checks on **Campobello** before hiring him in 1994.

The diocese has denied wrongdoing.

Brown already has entered default judgments against **Campobello**, who is serving an eight-year sentence at a downstate prison, for failing to respond the lawsuits.

On Monday, Aeschliman argued against the protective order, saying the only thing that the tapes would divulge would be the girl's identities. He suggested Brown order their names be removed from the transcripts to avoid the order.

Rockford Diocese attorney Ellen Lynch described the release of the tapes as "highly prejudicial" against the diocese's case.

During a recess, while sitting side-by-side in Brown's courtroom, Lynch said to Aeschliman, "I can't believe you want to disclose the contents of those tapes."

The cases return to court in February.