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Wednesday, Aug 14, 2002

News

Posted on Mon, Jul. 01, 2002

Ex-church elder charged with molesting

By Sara Eaton
The Journal Gazette

A 65-year-old former church elder was arrested Friday and charged with molesting a teen-age boy he had taken to movies and ballgames in 2000, police said.

Milton J. Sinn, of New Haven, was charged with one count of child molesting and one count of sexual misconduct with a minor. He was released from the City-County Lockup on \$20,000 bond.

Sinn declined to comment Sunday night.

An affidavit for probable cause alleges Sinn, who was an elder at Calvary Temple, 1400 W. Washington Center Road, molested two boys from the church in his car.

He worked with boys at the church and often took them to dinner, movies or ballgames, the affidavit said.

A 17-year-old boy told his girlfriend that Sinn fondled him after taking him to a movie in January 2000, the affidavit said.

The boy's girlfriend told a woman who was caring for the boy about the molesting and it was then discovered the boy's 13-year-old brother had also been molested by Sinn, the affidavit said.

The woman reported the molesting to police in December, and formal charges were filed against Sinn on Wednesday.

The woman told a detective that both boys stopped wanting to spend any time with Sinn, court records show.

Detectives also interviewed another woman and her 14-year-old son whom Sinn had spoken with regarding the molestations of the other boys, the affidavit said.

The boy told detectives Sinn asked him not to tell anyone and also asked the boy whether he would testify on Sinn's behalf as a character witness, the affidavit said.

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When he took the 14-year-old boy to the movies, at first he kissed him on the cheeks but later began kissing him on the lips and placed his hands on the boy's leg in the theater, the affidavit said.

Sinn denied touching the genital areas of either the 17-year-old or the 13-year-old, but did say that he kissed them on the lips in a "grandfatherly way," the affidavit said.

He said he spent time with boys rather than girls because they like ballgames and girls don't, court records show.

Detectives received several calls from other parents of boys who had contact with Sinn, the affidavit said. During interviews with those families, detectives discovered Sinn had hugged and kissed them on the lips and participated in conversations of a homosexual nature, the affidavit said.

Church elders are volunteers and do not receive pay for their work, Senior Pastor Bill Campbell said.

Sinn is no longer an elder at Calvary Temple, Campbell said. He stepped down shortly after Campbell took over the vacant pastor position in late October 2001.

Campbell declined to comment late Sunday on the specific charges against Sinn.

Campbell took over as senior pastor after the Calvary Temple congregation split in May 2001. Former Bishop Paul E. Paino and his son, Senior Pastor Paul C. Paino, left to form Christian Fellowship & Ministries in Fort Wayne, taking about 700 members with them.



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