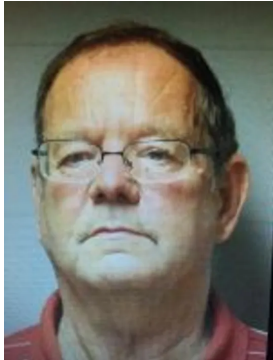


Former Hopewell Junction priest charged with sexual abuse

Abbott Brant, Poughkeepsie Journal Published 7:46 a.m. ET Sept. 22, 2015 | Updated 8:01 p.m. ET Sept. 22, 2015



(Photo: courtesy police photo)

BREWSTER — An ex-Hopewell Junction priest has been accused of sexually abusing a 50-year-old patient during his time as an employee at a human services organization, according to state police.

The State police Bureau of Criminal Investigation at the Brewster barracks and the Putnam County District Attorney's Office charged Joseph J. Faraone, 68, of Hopewell Junction, with second-degree criminal sexual act and first-degree sexual abuse, both class D felonies.

According to police, Faraone was working as an employee of a local not-for-profit human services organization. While there, Faraone allegedly had sexual contact with a 50-year-old patient who was unable to consent, according to police.



Father Joseph Faraone greets worshippers before Mass in 2006 at St. Denis Roman Catholic Church in East Fishkill. (Photo: Karl Rabe/Journal file photo)

Faraone was arraigned before Town of Southeast Justice Richard Vercollone who remanded him to the Putnam County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail or \$100,000 bond. Faraone is scheduled to reappear in court on Sept. 23.

Faraone was last the associate pastor at Church of St. Denis in Hopewell Junction between 2004 and 2006 and has since left the priesthood. Before that, he spent 12 years at St. James the Apostle Church in Carmel, 11 years at Church of St. Patrick in Yorktown and nine years at St. Francis of Assisi in Mount Kisco.

In 1985, while a priest at St. Patrick's, Faraone gained publicity after winning \$1.17 million in the New York Lotto. He told reporters then he had started buying twice-weekly lottery tickets two years earlier when the parish was struggling to pay for its new, \$2 million church. At the time, he pledged to use half of his winnings to pay for the church and the other half to go to family, friends and other charities.

The investigation is continuing, according to police. Anyone with information is asked to contact the state police BCI at Brewster by calling 847-677-7300.

Get the [Crime and Courts](#) newsletter in your inbox.

Your top crime and courts stories.

4 free articles left.
99¢ per month. Save 90%.

Abbott Brant: abrant@poughkeepsiejournal.com; 845-437-4809; Twitter: @AbbottBrantPoJo

Read or Share this story: <https://pojonews.co/1KszC8K>