

# Rockford Register Star

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## Diocese stonewalls court in abuse case

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Refusal to release documents about a former Belvidere priest brings a contempt citation.  
Rockford Register Star

The Catholic Diocese of Rockford was held in contempt of court Thursday after refusing to turn over internal documents regarding a former Belvidere priest who is charged with sexual abuse of a 14-year-old girl.

The diocese told Kane County Judge Timothy Sheldon it cannot comply with a request to turn over records because that would violate the Constitution and separation of church and state.

The case involves allegations against the Rev. Mark Campobello who worked at St. James Parish in Belvidere where he was arrested last December.

The Rockford Diocese's arguments against revealing documents are similar to those put forth by Catholic bishops around the nation in past months as hundreds of people have filed claims of sexual abuse by priests. Please see 11A

" We had to be held in contempt. That is the only way we can get to a higher court. "

- Ellen Lynch of Hinshaw & Culbertson, which represents the diocese