

Priest won't be extradited to face charge

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A retired Roman Catholic priest from Sauk Centre will not be extradited from Canada to face charges that he allegedly sexually abused a mentally retarded man last summer.

Stearns County Attorney Roger Van Heel said he doesn't plan to extradite the Rev. Raoul Gauthier, long-time chaplain at the Sauk centre Hospital. "I'm not going to take any steps to extradite him to this country," Van Heel said. Gauthier, 76, was charged in November with criminal sexual conduct in the fourth degree.

A warrant for his arrest was issued after he failed to appear in Stearns County Court Dec. 13 to face charges.

Gauthier is said to be living in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan since he left Minnesota when a police investigation began. He is a Canadian citizen.

Authorities allege Gauthier masturbated a 37-year-old retarded Waite Park man he allegedly picked up at a Waite Park business on Aug. 18.