

Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association sued for Lotto-winning ex-priest sex crime

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(Photo: Karl Rabe/Journal News File Photo)

A federal lawsuit accused Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association executives of failing to protect a developmentally disabled woman from being sexually assaulted at a Brewster health care facility.

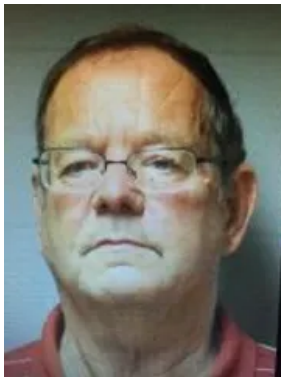
The lawsuit stemmed from Joseph Faraone sexually assaulting the 50-year-old woman while he was a worker at the association in 2015, court records show.

Faraone, a former priest who won \$1 million in the lottery, is currently living in Brewster as a high-risk registered sex offender on probation. He served a one-year jail sentence connected to the sexual assault, state records show.

The woman is described as having the mental capacity of a 12-year-old child in the civil lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in White Plains.

After numerous pre-trial hearings, the case appeared headed toward a jury trial next year. The association and executives have denied wrongdoing, court records show.

CHARGES: Lotto-winning ex-priest faces sexual assault charges (<http://Lotto-winning%20ex-priest%20faces%20two%20sex-crime%20charges>)



Joseph Faraone, 68, a former priest who won more than \$1 million in the lottery in 1985, was charged Sept. 18, 2015, with a sex crime in Putnam County. He was accused of having sexual conduct with a 50-year-old woman incapable of consent due to a mental disability or incapacity. (Photo: State police)

Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy's Executive Director Howard Yager and Chief Operating Officer of Programs Beatrice Guida are accused of failing to react to employee complaints about Faraone sexually assaulting the woman in June 2015. Other unnamed supervisors allegedly didn't react to the complaints either, court records show.

Then a concerned worker used a recording device that caught Faraone sexually assaulting the woman a second time in September 2015, court records show.

After the second assault, Guida allegedly tried to have false reports prepared to suggest some action was taken after the first sexual assault, court records show, and other unnamed staff participated in the cover up.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified monetary damages. Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association is a nonprofit organization with about \$18 million in revenues, federal tax records show. It provides services to children and adults with cerebral palsy, as well as adults with traumatic brain injuries.

The association's official name is United Cerebral Palsy Association of Putnam and Southern Dutchess Counties. Yager didn't return a request for comment on the lawsuit. David Blaxill, the attorney representing the association, declined comment.

The lawsuit's next court date is scheduled for late January.

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

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winning \$1.17 million in the New York Lotto.

He had told reporters then he started buying twice-weekly lottery tickets when the parish was struggling to pay for its new, \$2 million church. At the time, he pledged to use half his winnings to pay for the church and the other half to go to family, friends and other charities.

In 2016, Faraone was convicted of a felony criminal sex act involving a mentally disabled victim incapable of consent. He was released after serving a one-year jail sentence and is currently free under a 10-year probation, state records show.

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