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HEADLINE: Nome priest accused of sex abuse;

LAWSUIT: "Jane Doe 2" says the Rev. James Poole impregnated her as a teen.

BYLINE: By NICOLE TSONG, Anchorage Daily News

BODY:

A Jesuit priest already facing accusations of sexual abuse now faces another lawsuit by a woman who says he molested her as a child, got her pregnant at 14 and told her to "get rid of the baby," according to the new suit filed in Nome Wednesday.

She had an abortion, the documents say.

The woman, who filed the lawsuit anonymously as "Jane Doe 2," said the Rev. James Poole had begun molesting her in 1974 when she was 12 and didn't stop until she was an adult.

"Father Poole only stopped his molestation, abuse and pursuit of Jane Doe 2 when, at age 20, she was able to tell him that she never wanted to be alone with him again," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit names Poole, the Fairbanks diocese, and the Society of Jesus in Alaska and the Jesuits' Oregon Province. Poole, now about 80, worked as a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Fairbanks starting in 1957, and founded KNOM, a radio station in Nome owned and operated by the diocese. He is retired and lives in a Jesuit home in Spokane, Wash.

Poole did not return a telephone call Wednesday. But the Rev. John Whitney, Jesuit provincial for the Oregon province, said in a statement that Poole, "when made aware of the allegations in this complaint, denied them unequivocally."

Whitney said the Jesuits had no knowledge of the allegations before Jane Doe 2's attorney approached the province recently but that he was saddened by them.

"The Oregon Province takes seriously every allegation of abuse," Whitney said in the statement. "Our desire is to find a just and healing solution to these matters for the well-being of all those involved."

The Rev. Richard Case, chancellor for the Fairbanks Diocese, said he had not heard of these allegations until he got word of the lawsuit. "They're very serious allegations," Case said. "We are very concerned for the health of the victim."

Poole's name first arose in March when a woman using the pseudonym "Jane Doe" sued Poole, the Fairbanks diocese and the Jesuits, accusing the priest of kissing and fondling her more than 100 times over seven years in Nome starting when she was 10 years old. At the time, Poole called the allegations "highly inflammatory and highly exaggerated." Another woman, Patricia Hess, came forward shortly after and also accused Poole of sexually molesting her while she was a teenager in Nome. Hess has filed a formal complaint with the Catholic Church.

Attorney Ken Roosa, who represents both Jane Does, said Poole had called the cases similar but that the allegations involving Jane Doe 2 are worse than he had expected.

Jane Doe 2 met Poole when she was 12 years old and a ward of the state, Roosa said. Poole also molested Doe 2 on more than 100 occasions at places including the KNOM studios and later in Fairbanks, the complaint says. He would take her to a private, secluded area where he kissed her, touched her and engaged in heavy petting.

By the time she was 14, the complaint says, they were having sexual intercourse.

She went to him when she discovered she was pregnant in 1976, but he told her to "get rid of the baby" and suggested she blame her father for the pregnancy, the complaint says.

"Soon thereafter, she acquiesced, went to Anchorage and had an abortion," the complaint says.

The lawsuit also claims that former Fairbanks Bishop Francis Gleeson knew as early as 1961 that Poole frequently took girls ages 12 or 13 into secluded areas of his office and spent hours at a time alone with them and that people suspected something improper was happening. But Gleeson took no action, the complaint says.

Gleeson died in 1983.

Jane Doe 2 said the abuse and assault have caused her emotional distress, loss of self-esteem and loss of faith in God and the Catholic Church, among others. She is asking for at least \$50,000 on each of 10 claims plus punitive damages.

Tom Busch, general manager at KNOM since 1970, sent a letter to thousands of contributors in March explaining the abuse allegations against Poole after the first lawsuit was filed.

He said Wednesday that Poole married him and his wife and was like a second father to both of them.

"For us, it's a great emotional blow," Busch said. "If true, I am horrified **by it all.**"