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"She pleaded with him not to have intercourse with her and instead she was forced to perform fellatio. He told her he had done this to many women in the past and then allowed her to leave," St. Hilaire wrote in his petition.

...ated as soon as the law went into effect Jan. 1, Hirsch argued during the first portion of the hearing, which dealt with legal issues and was open to the public. Hirsch is managing attorney of the New Hampshire Public Defenders new special defender's office created to de-

ing the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld similar laws in other states.

Mangones denied all defense motions, allowing the evidentiary portion of the hearing to proceed with witness testimony.

Saying the civil commitment proceeding is a civil, and not

If they find Decato fits the definition of a sexually violent predator, St. Hilaire has 48 hours to file a petition in superior court where a civil commitment trial would be held within 60 days. If the team does not find him to be sexually dangerous, Decato would be set free.

yesterday afternoon, refused to comment. "I ain't got nothing to say," she said.

The investigation involves the Kar murder, Perry said.

Reardon asked the judge to set bail at \$15,000 cash/surety, saying Josey was previously convicted of robbery and there was a "high likelihood of flight."

A sobbing Josey pleaded with the judge to lower the bail, telling him she has "three babies" at home.

Josey said Perry is a friend who cares for her children while she works.

"I never did anything wrong to her or anything like that," Josey said of the witness-tampering

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Documentary details abuse by McCormack colleague

◆ Hand of God: Brother of victim says bishop protected abuser.

By MARK HAYWARD
Union Leader Staff

Years before the Boston priest sexscandal broke in 2002, former Massachusetts resident Paul Cultrera approached officials at the Archdiocese of Boston and said he had been sexually abused in the 1960s by a now-deceased priest, Father Joseph Birmingham.

He was struggling with personal problems and wanted help to pay for counseling, said his brother, Joe Cultrera, whose film about his brother's abuse — "Hand of God" — was broadcast by WGBH last night on PBS's "Frontline." The 1½-hour show is scheduled to air again at 10 p.m. tomorrow on WENH.

At the time, the archdiocese was capping most payments at \$20,000 a victim, a paltry sum

compared to the millions it would pay out a decade later.

But the Cultreras had a little secret. If the information were exposed, it could derail the future of a promising priest, Joe Cultrera said. Paul ended up with three times the normal settlement amount.

The priest: John B. McCormack, who later became an auxiliary bishop in Boston and, in 1998, the Bishop of Manchester.

The secret: McCormack, the Cultreras believe, was aware of Birmingham's abuse of boys and allowed him to be transferred to other parishes, where the abuse occurred again and again.

"It was our one leverage," Cultrera said in an interview yesterday. "It was a year later he was made (auxiliary) bishop."

Cultrera said he offered Mc-

Cormack a chance to be interviewed in "Hand of God." The bishop agreed to talk to Cultrera, but would not be taped or recorded, he said.

Yesterday, Manchester diocesan spokesman Patrick McGee said McCormack has been in contact with Paul Cultrera, and has met with any priest sex abuse survivor who has requested a meeting.



McCORMACK

"Each day, the bishop prays for healing to come to those who were harmed in the past," McGee said. McGee said he will not respond to any of the comments Cultrera has about McCormack.

In the past, McCormack has said he does not recall ever seeing Birmingham, a one-time seminary classmate, abuse anyone. He has also said he's asked

himself why he didn't do more to stop Birmingham.

"Hand of God" concentrates on the tight-knit Cultrera family members, who grew up in Salem, Mass., Birmingham's history of abuse and how the family handled revelations of the abuse.

Paul Cultrera said McCormack's handling of his case "is the one thing that stuck in my life and made me feel really bitter."

The Cultrera children were schooled at St. James in Salem. Both Birmingham, who died in 1989, and McCormack were assigned to St. James at the time. In the film, Paul Cultrera reserves his criticism for church hierarchy.

"Being a bishop," he said, "means you are probably a rotten guy who has climbed to the top of the corporate ladder."

On the Internet:
www.handofgodfilm.com

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- Permanent partial impairment ranging from \$10,000 to \$
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- **25 years** experience
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Attorney Gary Ca

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