

DATE: September 14, 1990

FULL NAME Robert G. Prior S.S. NO. _____
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS _____

CITY Syracuse STATE New York ZIP CODE 13207

DATE OF BIRTH 5/00/23 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE 67 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION Catholic NATIONALITY (Citizen of) USA

OCCUPATION Bus Driver

EDUCATION _____

WEIGHT Approx. 210 HEIGHT 6'2" Approx. RACE Caucasian

COLOR OF HAIR _____ COLOR OF EYES _____

ANY DISTINGUISHING PHYSICAL CHARACTERSTICS Wears glasses

HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS _____

MARRIED SINGLE NAME OF SPOUSE _____

CHILDREN _____
(Name, number, ages, if possible)

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	POSITION	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
Troop 87	Syracuse, NY		SA	June 1963	
Chartered Organization			Most Holy Rosary Church		

SPECIAL RECOGNITION _____

INCIDENT: TYPE 1 DATE OF INCIDENT 1989-1990 RESOLUTION 2
Type Resolution

- 1=Scout Related
- 2=Non-scout related
- 3=homosexual (not specifically with youth)
- 1. Internal (only Scouts Know)
- 2. Criminal action
- 3. Court action
- 4. Probationary status
- 5. Reported to state agency

APR 01 1991

Check off list of attached documentation

- 1. Description of incident
- 2. Victim(s) statement
- 3. media reports
- 4. Legal proceedings
- 5. Offender's statement
- 6. Official notification of termination
- 7. Found guilty/innocent by court

CONFIDENTIAL

SEP 18 1990

Council Hiawatha #373 Signed [Signature] ASE F. STARON
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

April 2, 1991

Mr. William J. Morgan
Scout Executive
Hiawatha Council, No. 373

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: ROBERT G. PRIOR

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Ineligible Volunteer File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration and Statistical Service

eko

cc: Charles D. Ball, Northeast Region

READY FOR FILE
APR 03 1991
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF019009



HIAWATHA COUNCIL, INC.
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



January 31, 1991

Mr. Paul Ernst, Director
Registration & Subscription Service
Boy Scouts of America
P. O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Robert G. Prior

Dear Paul:

Enclosed is a copy of a newspaper story concerning the above named individual, indicating disposition of legal action against him.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William J. Moran
Scout Executive

wjm/mz
Enclosure
cc: Charles D. Ball

CONF019010

FOR THE RECORD

Ex-Boy Scout Leader Guilty of Harassment

A former Boy Scout leader has pleaded guilty to a harassment charge in connection with allegations he sexually abused a teenage boy last year.

Robert G. Prior pleaded guilty to the reduced charge Friday, after the 14-year-old boy's mother said she didn't want her son to have to testify in a trial, Assistant District Attorney Walter Bowler said.

City Court Judge Thomas Higgins sentenced Prior to a one-year conditional discharge. He ordered Prior to have no contact with the victim. If Prior has any contact with the boy, he would automatically be resentenced, and could be charged with criminal contempt, Bowler said.

Prior, 67, of 1510 Stolp Ave., was accused of fondling the boy at a gas station in August, while the boy was working at a car wash for a youth group not connected to the Boy Scouts.

Prior told police after his arrest in September that he'd been involved with Boy Scout Troop 87 for 27 years, and was at that time an assistant scoutmaster. Prior said he'd been a scoutmaster for 18 years.

The boy dropped out of the troop about a year before the incident.

Boy Scout officials have said Prior was not in a leadership position with the troop since 1982, but that he was helping out with activities. Prior resigned from his position after his arrest on charges of third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child.

Boy Scout officials said they didn't wait for Prior to quit before they fired him.

September 20, 1990

Mr. Lawrence A. Bystran
Assistant Scout Executive
Hiawatha Council, No. 373

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: ROBERT G. PRIOR

Dear Larry:

Thanks so much for the material you recently sent concerning the above named individual. This is most helpful as we start building a file of refusal of registration in the future.

Once the legal action has taken place, we would like the outcome for our files. This will then give us all the documentation necessary for refusal of registration anywhere in the country.

Thanks again for your good help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration and Statistical Service

ag

cc: Northeast Region
William J. Moran, Council No. 373

READY TO FILE
SEP 21 1990
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF019012

Mom: Son Recovering From Sexual Abuse

By RICK MORIARTY
The Post-Standard

A Syracuse woman says the Boy Scout leader charged with sexually abusing her teen-age son seemed like a nice guy who worked well with children.

"He didn't seem like a bad guy to me," she said Friday. "He enjoyed being with the kids. It makes it harder for me because I knew him."

The scout leader, Robert G. Prior, 67, of 1510 Stolp Ave., was charged Thursday with third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, both misdemeanors.

Prior had been a member of Boy Scout Troop 87 for 27 years and a scoutmaster for 18 of those years. Following his arrest, he resigned from the troop and was suspended from his job as a part-time bus driver for the Westhill School District.

Police alleged that Prior touched the boy's genitals through the boy's pants during a Boy Scout car wash

at a South Geddes Street gas station this summer.

The teen-ager's mother said her son is recovering from the emotional trauma of the incident.

"He's doing pretty good now," she said. "I told him, 'You've got to get on with your life.'"

Prior, through his wife, said Friday his attorney advised him not to speak publicly about the incident.

In a statement to police, Prior denied sexually abusing the boy at the gas station. However, he told police he touched the boy's genitals at the boy's request during a troop outing at Lourdes Camp in Spafford.

The boy's mother said a priest who worked with the troop also sexually abused her son. That incident occurred at the priest's camp in Parish in late August, she said.

The priest, who is now undergoing counseling at a Catholic psychiatric center in Maryland, immediately reported the incident to other priests and apologized to the boy, the child's mother said. The priest has not been charged.

9/15/90

by Patrick Lakamp
and Charles Miller
Staff Writers

A Boy Scout leader was charged with sexual abuse and a priest was taken to a psychiatric hospital after a teen-age boy told police he was abused by the pair. Syracuse police accused scout leader Robert G. Prior, 67, of 1510 Old Ave. of fondling the boy last month in Syracuse. Prior is a school bus driver for the Westhill Central School District.

The boy told police he was fondled by the Rev. Donald C. Hebert, formerly of Most Holy Rosary Church, during an overnight stay at a camp a week later. The boy and his mother said they did not press charges against Hebert because he apologized to them. The psychologist declined to comment. Diocesan officials did not return phone calls today. Hebert is being treated at St. Luke's Institute, a Catholic psychiatric hospital in Suitland, Mary-

land. When contacted today by telephone, he was unaware he had been named in the boy's police statement and he said he did not know Prior had been charged. "The whole thing is tragic. I hope everything works out for Mr. Prior and the child," Hebert said from the hospital. "I'm here trying to work out my problems. I'm really sorry." The victim's mother said her son wanted to press charges until Hebert apologized. When the diocese told the family Hebert was

going to be treated, the boy changed his mind, she said. "He'll have to live with this for the rest of his life," the mother said today. "All I know is Father Don is going to be away for a long time. I don't hate him, but I hate what he did. If this happened to any other boys, I hope they come forward like we did." Prior is accused of pulling the boy into a car by the shirt, rubbing his stomach and fondling his geni-

■ SCOUT LEADER, Page A9

Scout leader accused of abusing boy

■ SCOUT LEADER
Continued from Page A1

tails from the outside of his pants. Prior, an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop No. 87 and its former scoutmaster, denied the boy's charge. He told police he has touched several boys over the years, and admitted another sexual contact with the teen-ager. In a sworn statement, he told police he touched the boy's genitals during a scouting trip in 1989 at Lourdes Camp in Skaneateles. In his statement, Prior said he had become sexually aroused at the time. "It was a 'You show me, I show you' type of thing," Prior said in a telephone interview today. "I don't feel there's any sexual harassment. It's blown out of proportion. It's ruining my reputation." Before the 1989 incident, Prior said, he had had no sexual contact with boys for 12 years. "I thought I had taken care of my problem until that night with (the boy)," Prior told police. He said today his problem is under control: "I don't have a problem anymore. I don't have a problem with boys." Until today, Prior drove a bus for the Westhill School District. School officials suspended him this morning indefinitely. Prior said he would be resigning from scouting.

"How can I not leave scouting? How can I drive a bus full of children?" he said. "You can't have someone charged with sexual abuse involved with those things. That hurts me because I love what I do." Prior said the boy asked him to touch his genital area. "He perpetuated the whole thing," Prior said. "I was a little gullible. I admit I made a mistake. Be that as it may, I did not abuse the boy. It was a touch, but it was no abuse." Prior is a retired building and grounds superintendent at Bishop Ludden High School. He has been involved with the Boy Scout troop for 27 years. He served as the troop's scoutmaster for 18 years. "I've done a lot of positive things with scouting," he said. He faces charges of third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, both misdemeanors. The endangering charge, the more serious of the two, carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail. Police issued Prior an appearance ticket to appear in City Court next Thursday. He is free on his own recognizance. "This is just a minor misdemeanor charge," Prior said. "It's really not what it's cracked up to be. I don't want my name in the paper. I got a life to lead. It's hurting me, and it's hurting my family." Prior is married and has four children and nine grandchildren, who he said "are standing behind me all the way." Prior was arrested after the boy told his doctor about the incident he said occurred in Syracuse last month.

Police interviewed the boy at his school. In a statement, the boy described what happened. "Mr. Prior was sitting in the car in the driver's seat," the statement said. "Mr. Prior said come here and he grabbed me by my ... shirt. It was just before the State Fair started. He pulled me over to his car. He started rubbing my stomach and said he could do a lot better things than Father Don could do. Mr. Prior started rubbing my penis with his hand on the outside of my pants for a minute. I got mad, I was going to hit him but I didn't. Mr. Prior is big and strong. I jerked myself away from him and borrowed a kid's bike and went home." The boy said he did not tell his mother everything that happened, but he later told his counselor. Both the boy and Prior told an officer assigned to the Syracuse Police Department's child abuse unit of the incident at the camp. In his version to police, Prior said the youth had first asked to sleep with him. The boy told police he also was abused by the priest. "Father Don picked me up Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the morning. ... It was near the end of August 1990. When we got to the camp, we played with the other kids. Later on in the night, when I went to sleep, Father Don put his cot next to mine. At about 12 (midnight) Father Don reached under the covers and rubbed my penis. I told him to stop, and he did. He asked if it felt good, and I told him no."



HIAWATHA COUNCIL, INC.
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



September 14, 1990

Mr. Robert Prior

[Redacted]
Syracuse, NY 13207

Dear Mr. Prior:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be denied. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with the Boy Scouts of America.

You should understand that BSA membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to refuse registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not meet the high standards of membership which the BSA seeks to provide for American youth.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed by a BSA Regional Review Committee, please write to the Regional Director within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA member should be reinstated. The procedures for a review of this decision are attached.

Sincerely,

lab/mz
Enclosure

Lawrence A. Bystran
Assistant Scout Executive

FOR THE RECORD

Scoutmaster Faces Sex Abuse Charge

A veteran Boy Scout scoutmaster was charged Thursday with sexually abusing a teen-age boy in his troop.

Robert G. Prior, 67, of 1510 Stolp Ave. was charged with third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child.

Syracuse police said a 14-year-old member of Troop 87 told them Prior touched the boy's genitals on two separate occasions during Boy Scout gatherings. Prior told police he had been involved with the troop for 27 years and a scoutmaster for 18 of those years.

The boy said the first incident occurred at a Boy Scout camp in Parish during March 1989, according to police. The second incident occurred this summer while the troop was washing cars at a gas station at 631 S. Geddes St., the boy told police.

Investigators said Prior denied sexually abusing the boy in Parish or at the gas station in Syracuse. But police said he admitted touching the boy's genitals during a troop outing at Lourdes Camp in Spafford, along Skaneateles Lake, in May 1989.

The two charges involve only the alleged incident at the gas station.

Scoutmaster charged with sex abuse

By Patrick Lakamp
and Charles Miller
Staff Writers

A long-time Boy Scout leader and Westhill school bus driver was charged Thursday with sexually abusing a teen-age boy.

Syracuse police accused Robert G. Pryor, 67, of 1510 Stolp Ave. of fondling the boy last month in Syracuse.

The boy also told police he was fondled by a Roman Catholic priest during an overnight stay at a camp a week later. He said the priest apologized to his parents and promised to seek treatment. The priest was not charged.

Prior is accused of pulling the boy into a car by the shirt, rubbing his stomach and fondling his genitals from the outside of his pants.

Prior, an assistant scout master for Boy Scout Troop No. 87 and its former scout master, denied the boy's charge.

But he told police he has touched several boys over the years, and admitted another sexual contact with the teen-ager.

In a sworn statement, he told police he touched the boy's genitals during a scouting trip in 1989 at Lourdes Camp in Skaneateles. In his statement, Prior said he had become sexually aroused at the time.

"It was a 'You show me, I show you' type of thing," Prior said in a telephone interview this morning. "I don't feel there's any sexual harassment. It's blown out of proportion. It's ruining my reputation."

Before the 1989 incident, he said, he had had no sexual contact with boys for 12 years.

"I thought I had taken care of my problem until that night with (the boy)," Prior told police.

He said today his problem is under control: "I don't have a problem anymore. I don't have a prob-

lem with boys."

Until this morning, Prior drove a bus for the Westhill School District. School officials suspended him this morning. Indefinitely, Prior said he would be resigning from scouting.

"How can I not leave scouting? How can I drive a bus full of children?" he said. "You can't have someone charged with sexual abuse involved with those things. That hurts me because I love what I do."

Prior said the boy asked him to touch his genital area.

"He perpetuated the whole thing," Prior said. "I was a little glibble. I admit I made a mistake. Be that as it may, I did not abuse the boy. It was a touch, but it was no abuse."

Prior is a retired building and grounds superintendent at Bishop Ludden High School. He has been involved with the Boy Scout troop for 27 years. He served as the

troop's scout master for 18 years.

"I've done a lot of positive things with scouting," he said.

He faces charges of third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, both misdemeanors. The endangering charge, the more serious of the two, carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail.

Police issued Prior an appearance ticket to appear Sept. 20 in City Court. He is free on his own recognizance.

"This is just a minor misdemeanor charge," Prior said. "It's really not what it's cracked up to be. I don't want my name in the paper. I got a life to lead. It's hurting me, and it's hurting my family."

Prior is married and has four children and nine grandchildren, who he said "are standing behind me all the way."

■ SCOUTMASTER, Page A9

Friday, September 14, 1990

Scoutmaster accused of abusing boy

■ SCOUTMASTER
Continued from Page A1

The boy has received counseling since the 1989 incident at the Skaneateles camp, according to the statement he made to police. Prior was arrested after the boy told his doctor about the incident he said occurred in Syracuse last month.

Police interviewed the boy at his school. In a statement, the boy described what happened. The statement spells Prior's name incorrectly.

"Mr. Pryor was sitting in the car in the driver's seat," the statement said. "Mr. Pryor said come here and he grabbed me by my ... shirt. It was just before the State Fair started. He pulled me over to his car. He started rubbing my stomach ... Mr. Pryor started rubbing my penis with his hand on the outside of my pants for a minute. I got mad. I was going to hit him but I didn't. Mr. Pryor is big and strong. I jerked myself away from him and borrowed a kid's bike and went home."

The boy said he did not tell his mother everything that happened, but he later told his counselor.

Both the boy and Prior told an officer assigned to the Syracuse Police Department's child abuse unit of the incident at the camp.

In his version to police, Prior said the youth had first asked to sleep with him.

9-14-90

G 373

ROBERT PRIOR AGE 67
SA 50287 #010884 5/23

VOLUNTEER MANY YEARS
ARRESTED THIRD DEGREE SEXUAL ABUSE
BOY SCOUT

INFO TO CAME

Paul Ernst

Added to IV file
deleted from reg file
9/14/90

MS08

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SYSTEM
MEMBER DELETE

09/14/90
10:39:15

CNCL 373 PRG/UNIT S0087 SEQ. 010884

FIRST: ROBERT LAST: PRIOR

ADDR1: ██████████ ADDR2: SYRACUSE NY

ADDR3: ██████████ ADDR4: ██████████ ZIP: 13207

REG STATUS: R ENROLL: 0384 BIRTH: 0523 SEX: M AGENCY: M ADULT/YOUTH: A

POSITION: SA FINDERCODE: 51 PHONE: ██████████ BULK: MAG-STATUS:

REN DAT: 0291

TRANSFER FROM = CNCL: PGM/UNIT: SEQ: TRANSFER DATE:

MAGAZINES

TYPE	CNCL	P/UNT	CODE	TRM	DATE	FIRST	LAST	ORIG	ISSUES	TO GO	AREAR	LAST LABEL	EXP
S			N	06	0590	0590	1090	03	003	00		2408	0391

PF2>DELETE PF12>MENU CLR>END
MEMBER DELETED FROM DATABASE SUCCESSFULLY