Bozeman priest faces sex charges

BOZEMAN (AP) — Bond was set Wednesday at $10,000 for a former priest at Resurrection Parish who faces two felony charges of deviate sexual conduct for allegedly having sexual relations with a teen-age Bozeman boy.

The Rev. Kevin J. Malee, 36, left Montana to work with the San Diego Diocese and was most recently on sabbatical and working at Mission Bay Hospital.

City Judge Mark Bryan, who presided at Malee's initial appearance Wednesday, said the defendant must live with his brother Thomas, a lawyer in Billings, and not leave the state. He also told Malee not to have any contact with the alleged victim and his family.

Malee is expected to enter a plea to the charges in district court in about two weeks.

Gallatin County Sheriff's Detective Rob Christie said his department began investigating the allegations against Malee about three months ago. Malee was arrested when he returned to Montana Tuesday, Christie said.

The first charge alleges Malee had sexual intercourse and sexual contact with a 15-year-old Bozeman boy between June and August 1985 without the boy's consent. Montana law says a person under age 16 cannot legally consent to sexual acts. The charge carries a maximum prison term of 20 years.

Malee also is accused of having sexual intercourse and sexual contact with the same boy between October 1985 and May 1986. That charge, which does not involve the issue of consent, carries a maximum prison term of 10 years.

Deputy County Attorney Marty Lambert said Malee moved from Bozeman last fall. Lambert said Malee worked as a priest in Bozeman for two years, in Great Falls for two years and in Billings for four years.

Lambert asked Judge Bryan to set Malee's bond at $25,000 because of the severity of the alleged crimes. Malee's defense attorney, Steven Ungar, asked for a $5,000 bond because Malee will not be able to return to his California job while charges are pending and will need his savings to defend himself.

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