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Ex-psychologist settles lawsuit filed by client

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Waukesha - A former Oconomowoc psychologist serving prison time for molesting a patient has settled a lawsuit filed by that patient.

The terms of the settlement between James D. Miller and the former patient are confidential, attorneys for both sides told Waukesha County Circuit Judge Donald Hassin Jr. in a telephone conference in court Friday.

Miller continues to maintain his innocence, his attorney, Todd Weir, said in an interview Monday.

"This brings to a close a lawsuit against a psychologist who, in my opinion, was guilty of no wrongdoing whatsoever," Weir said.

The former patient's attorney, Jay Urban, could not be reached for comment Monday.

Miller had vigorously contested both sexual assault charges and the lawsuit filed by one of two victims.

In a seven-day trial in April 2000, Miller testified that he had never indecently touched the two patients or any other patient. But a jury found him guilty of sexual exploitation by a therapist and first-degree sexual assault of a child.

Witnesses testified he had indecently touched a 4-year-old male patient once in December 1991 and had repeatedly molested a male teenage patient from 1989 to 1992.

Waukesha County Circuit Judge Robert Mawdsley sentenced him to serve three years in prison and 15 years on probation. But he granted a rare stay of the prison time while Miller appealed his convictions.

An appeals court rejected his appeals last July, and the state Supreme Court declined to review the case.

When Miller appeared in court Nov. 4 to begin serving his 3-year prison term, about 30 people stood in court and applauded to support him as bailiffs led him away.

The state Psychology Examining Board revoked Miller's license in September 2000.

Urban, whose client was the patient Miller was convicted of molesting for three years during therapy sessions, has said that his client's main goal was to make sure Miller lost his license to practice.

A version of this story appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Jan. 7, 2003.