

Local report

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City man pleads innocent in case of alleged kidnap

WATERBURY — A city man pleaded innocent Wednesday to a kidnapping charge filed in connection with a 1993 sexual assault.

John Regan, 47, was arraigned during a brief proceeding in Waterbury Superior Court. He is free on \$350,000 bond and is due back in court Dec. 22. He was not charged with sexual assault because the statute of limitations ran out six years ago.

Police arrested Regan in October because they said his DNA matched DNA found on the victim. In September 1993, someone crept into her Overlook home, bound her and assaulted her while her children slept nearby, police said. Police asked for Regan's DNA after a 21-year-old colleague at the roofing and siding business where he works accused him of trying to assault her. In September, he was charged with unlawful restraint in connection with that case. He also pleaded innocent to that charge.

THE 1993 CASE IS WELL-KNOWN because the victim sued police over their handling of the investigation. They accused her of lying about being raped to cover up an affair, though there was no evidence she had been having one. In 2001, a jury awarded her \$190,000 in damages after it found two officers negligent for traumatizing her by failing to properly investigate the incident.

Police say Regan