

Regan returns to Waterbury

Suspected sex offender in court

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WATERBURY — For the first time in nearly a year, John Regan has returned to his hometown.

Regan, 49, appeared briefly Thursday in Waterbury Superior Court, his first court appearance here since before he was arrested in upstate New York last Halloween. In that incident, Regan tried to abduct a



Regan

17-year-old girl from her high school's parking lot.

Regan, a churchgoing father of three from Waterbury's Overlook neighborhood, has been charged five times during the past two years with sexually assaulting, or trying to sexually assault, four

women over the course of 25 years.

The charges came as a shock to many who knew Regan, a member of a prominent

Waterbury family. Regan School is named for his grandfather.

Regan was first arrested in 2004 and charged with trying to force himself sexually on a female co-worker. He was later charged with stalking the woman after he was arrested.

A DNA sample taken after his arrest linked him to a notorious 1993 case, police said.

In that case, police said, Regan broke into the woman's home and raped her. Police bungled the investigation and the woman later won a lawsuit against the department. The

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case sparked the department to change the way it handled sexual assault investigations.

Regan was out on bond last October when he was arrested in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where he was working on houses owned by his uncle.

About a month later, another woman came forward in Waterbury and accused Regan of trying to force her to perform oral sex on him in 1981.

He faces kidnapping charges in the 1981 and 1993 cases because the statute of limitations expired on sexual assault charges before he was arrested. He faces more than 100 years in prison if convicted of all the charges against him in Connecticut.

In July, he pleaded guilty in the New York case and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

On Thursday, Regan appeared to have put on weight and looked healthier than he did at his sentencing in New York. He said nothing during the brief proceeding.

Regan is scheduled to return to court next Thursday. He is being held in Connecticut, though it was not immediately clear at which facility.
