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**William Peace University won't seek City Council approval to issue**

## Lawsuit alleges sex abuse by Boston pediatrician

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Melvin Levine later worked at UNC med school

By MARK PRATT — Associated Press

BOSTON — A former pediatrician is accused a lawsuit filed Thursday of giving medically unnecessary genital exams to dozens of boys over nearly two decades.

The medical malpractice and sexual abuse suit alleges that Melvin Levine, while a doctor at Children's Hospital Boston from 1966 to 1985, "stroked, massaged and manipulated the genitals of his patients in a manner which was not medically necessary."

The hospital and unnamed employees are accused in the lawsuit of negligence for allegedly failing to properly supervise Levine.

The hospital "knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known, that defendant Levine was not a fit person to be placed in charge of the treatment of minor male pediatric patients, or to be allowed to provide unsupervised care," said the suit, filed in Suffolk Superior Court by Boston lawyer Carmen Durso.

The roughly 40 former patients, all now adults, were between the ages of 4 and 17 when abused, according to the lawsuit. It seeks class action status and unspecified damages for "pain and suffering endured."

Levine, who lives in Rougemont, N.C., agreed two years ago to stop practicing medicine in any state after facing similar allegations there. A message left at a listed telephone number for Levine, 71, was not immediately returned.

The agreement in North Carolina allowed Levine to continue writing, lecturing and other work.

Denial from lawyer

His Boston-based lawyer said he maintains his innocence and has received support from other former patients.

"Dr. Levine denies in the strongest terms possible the allegations. His contributions to the field of developmental behavioral pediatrics have benefited tens of thousands of children worldwide," attorney Edward Mahoney said in a statement. "He has received widespread and unflinching support from patients and peers, and this means a great deal to him."

Children's Hospital said in a statement that it never received a complaint from a patient or a parent about Levine while he worked there. The statement said the hospital received one complaint about Levine's behavior after he departed, which was investigated and found to be appropriate within the context of the child's medical care. A related lawsuit was dismissed.

The statement also denied negligence.

Levine, considered an expert on learning disabilities who wrote acclaimed books on the topic, left Children's in 1985 for the UNC medical school, where he co-founded a research clinic.

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