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Paedophile guilty of loitering

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A defiant former Catholic priest has repudiated his 2009 guilty plea to a child-sex offence to a Victorian magistrate who has found there was a "sinister" explanation for him umpiring boys' underage cricket matches months after being placed on a sex offenders registry four years ago.

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Paul Pavlou, 54, told magistrate Peter Dunn on Monday his earlier conviction for committing an indecent act with a boy, 14, was true but not the "actual event ... Because it didn't happen".

Pavlou, who received a suspended jail sentence, was also convicted in 2009 of possessing child pornography, but in evidence in Ringwood Magistrates Court on other offences he revealed he had new evidence to possibly "reopen" both matters.

Mr Dunn found Pavlou guilty of 12 charges of loitering in a public place - cricket ovals - frequented by children and charges of breaching his employment conditions under the sex offence registry.

He pleaded not guilty and was bailed pending appeals against the convictions and an aggregate six month prison sentence. In his decision, Mr Dunn said the law, which Pavlou claimed breached his human rights, was important in protecting people and provided a regime "that Mr Pavlou clearly does not embrace in any way, shape or form".

When prosecutor Sergeant Jo Allen asked Pavlou if he was on the registry because he had breached the human rights of a person, Pavlou responded: "If a guilty plea is taken as true, yes. If an actual event, no, because it didn't happen."

Defence barrister Sharon Kermath said Pavlou, who has a previous conviction for breaching his conditions, had no intention of committing any sex offences. Leading Senior Constable Nicholas Fiedler told Mr Dunn that Pavlou was investigated for breaches of his conditions after he learnt he had not revealed in a yearly interview changes to his employment, including umpiring.

He said the charges of loitering were "based on the fact that he should never have been umpiring" because he was not allowed to be in a park frequented by children.

Pavlou umpired in the Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association under the name "Pavlo Pavlou" for the 2009-10 season. The following year he gave his given name as "Chris", a family name, but for 2012-13, after working-with-children checks began, he did not seek registration.

He told Ms Kermath he provided his real name and claimed a police case worker told him working-with-children checks were not needed.

Mr Dunn told Pavlou that if he had any doubts about umpiring senior games, which sometimes included players under 15, "Why would you engage in the under-15 matches?"

Mr Dunn said that, given he did not believe Pavlou's evidence about the police case worker, it can only be that the "explanation is far more sinister".

This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/paedophile-guilty-of-loitering-20130722-2qf3p.html>