

KIDNAP COURT FIGHT

New York Post, Monday, December 19, 2005

nypost.com

S.I. kin sue abductor

EXCLUSIVE

By KATI CORNELL SMITH

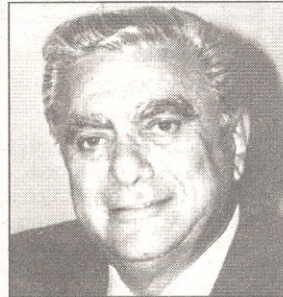
A man who abducted two Staten Island brothers after one of the boys engaged in sexually explicit phone calls and e-mails with his young daughter won't likely face prison time — but a new lawsuit could force him to empty his pockets.

The family of Christopher and Charles Clemente are seeking damages for the mental anguish inflicted by John Gregorio, son of the mayor of Linden, N.J. — also named John — when he and two 200-pound companions allegedly took the brothers on a harrowing three-hour drive around Staten Island on July 19, 2004.

Lawyers for the Clementes filed suit in Staten Island Supreme Court last week after Gregorio, 46, pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful imprisonment in a deal with prosecutors that calls for a sentence of five years' probation.

The lawsuit is the latest twist in a sordid saga that began when Christopher, then 14, engaged in sexually explicit calls and e-mails with Gregorio's 13-year-old daughter for approximately three weeks — and peaked with Gregorio and his pals allegedly forcing the teen and his older brother into a black Lincoln and holding them at knifepoint.

"They had a knives in the car, and they put them to our necks. They said, 'We're going to kill you. Don't come to New Jersey. Don't even talk to my daughter,'" Christopher told The Post in his first interview since the ab-



MAYOR GREGORIO
Son in abduction mess.

duction.

The Clementes' lawyer, Joseph Tacopina, said, "Gregorio is a convicted felon whose conduct has forever impacted the lives of these two young men, and for that he'll pay."

But investigators concluded Gregorio abducted the brothers only after other efforts to stop Christopher from contacting his daughter failed.

Prosecutors have alleged Gregorio first confronted Christopher on the phone, but the teen threatened to have sex with his daughter in front of him.

Christopher met Gregorio's daughter online through his older brother, Charles, 22, who stopped communicating with the girl when he realized her age, authorities said.

Gregorio's lawyer, John Murphy Jr., said the New Jersey man's twin 11-year-old daughters also received obscene calls from Christopher and three of his friends.

Last week's guilty plea required Gregorio to admit only to the unlawful imprisonment of Charles, not Christopher.

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