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## The priest, the stripper and their baby. We couldn't have prayed for a better story

By Liz Doup  
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We love South Florida news.

It always sounds like a joke on late night TV.

Except it's true.

You remember the priest, the stripper and the baby?

Seems the priest forgot his celebacy vows and got a stripper pregnant.

David Dueppen, now a former Catholic priest, admits he fathered the baby. Now he wants majority custody of the infant girl.

Her name, btw: Marilyn Epiphany.

The documents were filed this week in Miami-Dade family court, reports [miamiherald.com](http://miamiherald.com)

"He has never denied paternity for the child and he would like to be very involved in the child's life," his attorney, Raymon Rafool, said today.

Rafool said Dueppen, 42, should have custody of the child at least 70 percent of the time.

The former stripper, Beatrice Hernandez, 42, came forward last month to claim that she had been Dueppen's on-again, off-again girlfriend since meeting him at Porky's strip club about seven years ago.

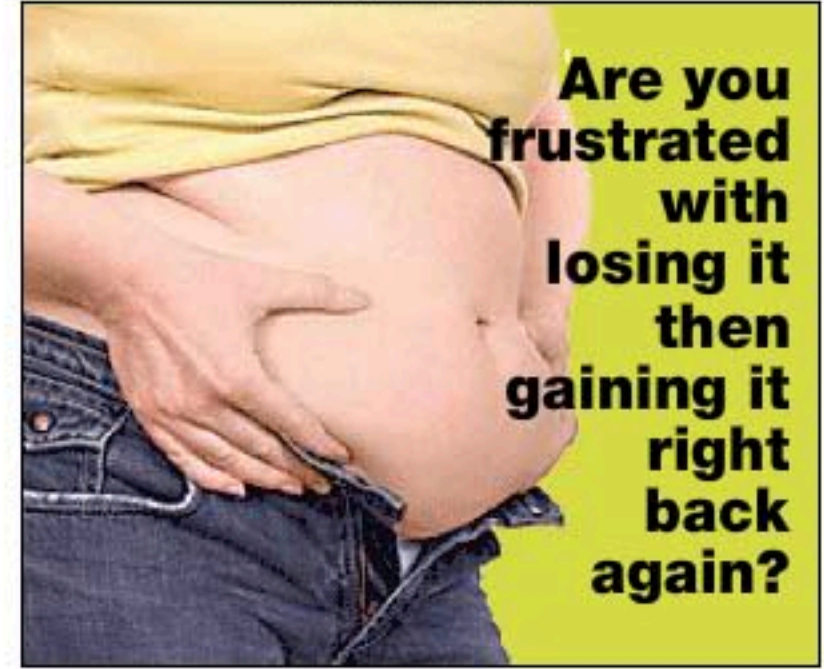
Dueppen joined the priesthood in 1999 and was last assigned to St. Maximilian Kolbe Church in Pembroke Pines. He took an indefinite leave of absence in August, after Hernandez reported the baby to the Archdiocese.

In court papers, Hernandez said Dueppen choked her during an argument over paternity and child support. Miami-Dade's family court has issued a temporary restraining order.

Dueppen denied the domestic abuse allegations and is now looking for a job outside the priesthood, Rafool said.

We pray for more followups.

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### About the author



**BARBARA HIJEK** has spent the best years of her life doing news research in Florida, the most news-warpy place in the universe. She's still passed all her drug tests and remains Prozac free. Barbara graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in her hometown. Talk about culture shock! She is single and has lived in Fort Lauderdale for the past decade. Prior to that Barbara lived in Clearwater for a dozen years. Truly a bicoastal Floridian. And she still can't figure out which coast is wackier...

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