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Gospel star's mom files \$9M suit against stores

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The 72-year-old mother of Donnie McClurkin, the world-famous gospel singer from Freeport, has filed a \$9 million lawsuit against Macy's, an associated jewelry store and a store employee over an incident last year.

Frances McClurkin of Amityville said in papers filed Friday

in State Supreme Court in Mineola that she purchased diamond earrings from Macy's and had them repaired at James Joseph Jewelers, Ltd., a Sunrise Mall contractee of the department store there.

"But when she went for the jewelry without the receipt a year ago, she was verbally abused by the JJJ employee," said McClurkin's lawyer, Fred Brew-

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ington of Hempstead. "Upon complaining at Macy's, where she was known, employees there told the jeweler to give her the earrings. But on her return, she was assaulted by the jewelry

store employee," who McClurkin said grabbed her neck.

No owner or manager of James Joseph Jewelers Ltd. returned calls. Employees there said they could not comment.

Orlando Veras, a spokesman for Macy's at Herald Square in Manhattan, said he would respond to a request for comment but did not do so by press time.

McClurkin charges that the

confrontation and assault occurred on Oct. 4 of last year.

"Macy's, though, never tried to verify what happened to Ms. McClurkin," Brewington said. "They didn't try to inquire about, follow up on or rectify the assault. I attempted . . . to contact Macy's and JJJ about the assault upon Ms. McClurkin, but nobody at either place ever personally responded."