

Lovesick lesbian cried rape to frame an innocent man

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A lesbian who accused an innocent man of raping her has been jailed.

Amy Jones, 21, falsely claimed to police that her stepfather Rod Swainson had been abusing her since she was 12.

After she gave a lengthy statement to detectives, Mr Swainson was arrested and charged with rape.



He appeared in court and then spent a week on remand in prison before being freed on bail on condition he wear an electronic tag and observe a curfew.

Social services allowed the father of two only limited access to his own young children until Jones went to police three weeks after the arrest to confess she made her up allegations.

Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, heard Jones had been going through 'turmoil' after relationships with various women.

She had told present girlfriend Kelly Mackin she had been raped. Then she tried to get former lover Laura Sproat to back up her claims against Mr Swainson, saying: "I just want him out of my life and put away."

But as she was arrested Jones told police: "I just want to clear everything up. I want to be with Kelly and clear up all these lies I have been telling."

Jones, of Bury, was sentenced to four months in prison after admitting perverting the course of justice.

The court had heard that police were told of the claims by Jones's girlfriend Miss Mackin last October.

Karen Irving, prosecuting, said police visited Jones at her home. "She disclosed that she had been raped and sexually abused starting from the age of 12 by her stepfather," said Miss Irving.

"On October 5 in the early hours, Mr Swainson was arrested by uniformed officers at his home address."

He was charged with two counts of rape, indecent assault, gross indecency and inciting a child to commit gross indecency.

The court heard Jones was said to have made several phone calls to former partner Laura Sproat, who lived in Scotland, asking her to confirm her allegations to police.

Miss Irving said: "Laura Sproat said she told the defendant she was not prepared to lie for her. She had told Miss Sproat she wanted Mr Swainson out of her life and put away."

The court heard how police then received calls from Jones and Miss Mackin on October 31. Miss Irving said: "Kelly Mackin informed officers the defendant had told lies in her statement and it wasn't true.

"On November 3, police received a call from the defendant who said, 'I want to come to sort this out because it's lies'. The officer asked which part, and she said, 'It's all lies. Everything in the statement'."

Jones failed to attend two appointments at the police station and was then arrested in relation to perverting the course of justice.

Miss Irving said: "While she was being fingerprinted, she said, 'I just want to clear everything up. I want to be with Kelly and clear up all these lies I have been telling'."

The court heard she had two previous convictions for shoplifting and been sentenced to community orders.

Chudi Grant, defending, said: "The allegations were made at a very unsettled time in her life. She was 20 at the time and living between England and Scotland, trying to forge a life for herself as an adult.

"She wasn't able to become settled and maintain a relationship. Her general make-up is one of quite a vulnerable young lady. She finds it difficult to express herself. She has a history of self-harm."

Sentencing her, Judge Timothy Mort said: "Of all the allegations made by a woman, rape is a very serious one.

"A sentence has to send out a message to other people that they must never do this for the sake of the genuine victims."