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Teenager's false rape claim

A TEENAGER took drugs at a party and then claimed the man she had sex with had drugged and raped her.

Elizabeth Wyper, 18, bedded partygoer James Crawford while high on speed and methadone. But the following day she told police that Mr Crawford, 26, had carried out sick sex acts and raped her.

Mr Crawford had to endure a police doctor's examination and hours of questioning before she confessed the rape was all in her mind because of her drug taking.

However, Wyper, who works as a carer looking after elderly people, yesterday walked free when Ayr Sheriff, Colin Miller, sentenced her to 180 hours community service and ordered she pay her victim #500 compensation.

He told her: "Rape is perhaps the vilest crime a man can commit against a woman and to falsely accuse a man of raping you is a very serious matter, particularly when it gets to the stage where he is hauled in by the police and examined.

"There is a view that since rape carries a lengthy sentence of imprisonment making false accusations should also carry a sentence of imprisonment. However, having heard all the circumstances and taking into account your youth and the fact you are a first offender, I'm prepared to deal with this by community service as an alternative to imprisonment. You will also pay this man #500 for the ordeal you put him through."

Wyper, of Onthank Drive, Kilmarnock, admitted making the false rape claim on November 14 last year. Elaine Jackson, prosecuting, said: "Wyper gave a lengthy statement alleging she had been confined in a flat in Ayr and had been drugged, raped, assaulted and sexually abused. The man she named attended Ayr police office voluntarily and denied the allegation but said he had sex with her.

"A scientist from the forensic laboratory also examined the suspect. There were discrepancies between her statement and those of other witnesses and police returned to her home and when asked if she was raped she replied 'no'."