

# Woman cries rape

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An innocent man was arrested and locked in a cell after a woman falsely accused him of rape, a court heard.

Therese Jackson had consented to sex and made the allegation because she was terrified her boyfriend John Porter would find out.

He called the police and 38-year-old Jackson then fabricated a story about being attacked in a field by Stephen Bennett.

The heavily tattooed mother was jailed for four months after admitting perverting the course of justice.

Anne Phillips, prosecuting, said specially trained officers went to Jackson's home and interviewed her.

She told how on September 9 last year she had stopped at Jackson's Field in Chatham for another drink and was approached by Mr Bennett.

"She said Mr Bennett pinned her down, pulled her hair, pulled her trousers down and had sexual intercourse with her," Mrs Phillips told Maidstone Crown Court.

"She was very distressed, saying on several occasions: 'I can't do this.' But she indicated she would support a prosecution. It was clear to the officer she was under the influence of alcohol."

## Arrested

Jackson handed over the clothes she had been wearing for forensic tests. She went to hospital and samples were taken from her.

Mr Bennett, 47, was arrested. When cautioned, he replied: "I slept with her Friday night."

He explained he met Jackson and took her to his sister's home in Chatham, where he twice had sex with her. He said he left her in Rochester.

Officers spoke to Jackson again and asked if she wanted to change anything in her statement. She then admitted: "I did sleep with him."

She said she had been unable to tell her boyfriend what actually happened.

"She said he put pressure on her to report the matter," said Mrs Phillips. "It was

Porter who made the initial phone call to the police.”

Mr Bennett had been held in custody for four-and-half hours and was on bail for four days before he was told he would not be charged.

Mrs Phillips said Jackson, of Ealing Close, Chatham, had 17 convictions for 29 offences, including breach of the peace and drugs. In January last year, she was jailed for 10 months for assault.

Mr Porter stood up in the public gallery and said: “It is my fault she is there. I put it on her. I am ever so sorry. I should be sitting there.”

## **Anorexia**

Tom Dunn, defending, said a psychiatric report outlined a profoundly unhappy life. She suffered from anorexia in her teens and started drinking at the age of 14 and self-harmed.

Jackson became pregnant at 15. She had miscarriages, including losing twins when six months pregnant. She was a chronic alcoholic.

Mr Dunn said Jackson drank an “almost inconceivable” high level of alcohol a week.

Submitting a suspended sentence could be passed, he added: “Mr Porter has a very strong hold over her. She was frightened of what he would do if he found out the true position.”

Recorder Simon Crookenden QC told Jackson: “Such allegations are extremely serious. They can result in destroying a man’s reputation and a miscarriage of justice.

“Courts have emphasized the seriousness of these offences and stated it must be met with immediate custody.”

Jackson, he said, had an emotionally unstable personality and was dependent on alcohol.

He was concerned she had stated she would kill herself if sent to prison and that she had a history of self-harming.

“However, the court cannot be persuaded from a sentence it considers to be just because of such threats,” he added.

<http://www.kentonline.co.uk/maidstone/news/woman-cries-rape-a96152/>