

## Man cleared of raping girl after false claim



**Shaun Carter arriving at Hull Crown Court**

10:24 11:00Friday 20 May 2016

**A customer service advisor has been cleared of rape after a court heard his accuser had made more than 500 anonymous calls to an ex-partner.**

Shaun Carter, 35, told a jury the Pocklington teenager had utterly made up the rape claim after sending him a text saying she would accuse him of rape if she did not give her father his car or a large sum of money.

Mr Carter was cleared of rape on the teenager and a separate charge of sexual assault on a boy after a five-day trial at Hull Crown Court (9-13 May). The jury's verdicts came after they were told the girl had made claims her mother and father had assaulted her and she had been given a police caution for making false representations to buy mobile phone credit.

The complainant also received a police caution for harassment of her ex-partner and his new partner by making 500 anonymous calls using a voice distortion device, playing music and making Facebook contact.

Mr Carter, of Seaton Ross, protested his innocence to the police, initially showing them the text messages. No prosecution was made until a boy claimed he had been sexually assaulted. Mr Carter told the jury he would never do such a thing, saying the boy was troubled and had picked on him, making vile remarks about being gay.

Mr Carter told the jury he had gone through humiliation since the allegations surfaced in 2014, being reported to social services and no longer allowed to babysit for his best friend's children as he had done regularly without concern.

He admitted he had two unrelated convictions for drink driving and possession of cannabis, but insisted he would never dream of hurting children.

The girl claimed Carter had raped her when she was "stoned" after smoking cannabis in a house. She said she was pushed against a washing machine. "He pushed me up against the washing machine," she said. "I thought: "Oh my God. What the hell was going to happen? I stopped myself from crying."

Mr Carter said the girl's alleged scream would have been heard and he denied he had ever taken her into a washroom. He said he been sent a text demanding money or the rape claim would be made and he thought after he told her parents it was not necessary to tell the police.

He said he had been in a steady relationship for 16 years and worked as a customer service advisor for a company dealing pet micro-chipping and veterinary supplies.

Defence barrister John Thackray asked Mr Carter: "You have heard the allegation of rape. Is it true?" Mr Carter replied "Absolutely not."

He said the allegations originally were reported to police and dismissed. He said: "She was demanding my car or a large sum of money. She said she would accuse me of rape if she did not get what she wanted.

"I showed the police the texts. I thought it would be dealt with. I did not think that she would continue."

<https://www.pocklingtonpost.co.uk/news/local/man-cleared-of-raping-girl-after-false-claim-1-7916517>