

# Girl gets probation for false rape claim

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BLOOMINGTON - A teenage girl who admits she lied when she accused a 13-year-old boy of raping her last year was sentenced to a year of probation Monday for filing a false police report.

The girl, 14, apologized to Judge G. Michael Prall for making up allegations that landed the boy in a juvenile detention center for more than three months on charges of criminal sexual assault.

She confessed to having consensual sex with the boy at his home July 14.

Rape charges against the boy were dropped after she admitted to lying about the allegations.

The boy, who was at court with his mother Monday but did not attend the sentencing, said he believes the girl made up a story about being raped because she was afraid of getting in trouble with her parents for having sex.

The boy's mother said she wished the judge would have given the girl some time in the detention center to think about the seriousness of her crime.

"I'm glad she did decide to come forward and tell the truth," the mother said. "But I think she should've done time to see how it feels. My son spent three months in there. That's time in his life he can never get back."

Prall disagreed, saying that "putting her into a detention facility with some hardcore delinquents is not the answer to the problem."

"The main problem here is you have two children having sex," Prall told the girl Monday. "This is an obvious reason why kids your age shouldn't do that. Save that activity for when you're older and get married."

The allegations have had a serious impact on the boy's life.

He lost out on a chance for a scholarship to attend Central Catholic High School over the rape charges.

The boy, who is in eighth grade at Bloomington Junior High School, said he may play football at Bloomington High School and that he's drawn interest from recruiters at Eastern Illinois University.

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