

## **Man acquitted of rape charges after ‘victim’ retracts statement**

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The Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADJ) Gurbir Singh has acquitted a Bural resident accused of raping a "minor" girl.

The court acquitted Shailendra (23) on Thursday after the rape "victim" retracted from her allegations and so did her father. Meanwhile, the accused had married the girl and accepted his son.

An FIR was registered against Shailendra in November 2009 when the girl, also resident of Bural, had alleged that she was raped by Shailendra. The girl had made a statement before the police when she was eight months pregnant.

Her father had also made a statement that Shailendra had kidnapped the girl and later raped her. The girl had given birth to the child in November itself. Shailendra was arrested and put behind the bars. During the trial he promised to marry the girl and accept the child. When the court granted him interim bail, Shailendra married the girl and lived with her and his male child for a month.

After the marriage the girl and her father said they had never alleged rape against Shailender. The prosecution had also failed to prove that the girl was a minor. Taking stock of the situation the court today acquitted him of rape charges.

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