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Woman jailed over false rape claim

AN ATTENTION seeker who caused an innocent man to be locked up because she cried rape has been jailed for a year.

Kerry Saunders, 26, was drunk when she was ordered to get out of a car on the A13 near the Circus Tavern, Purfleet, after having an argument with a member of her family.

In an attempt to get sympathy Saunders telephoned another relative and claimed she had been raped.

But Barry Hargreaves, prosecuting, said the conversation was overheard by an off-duty PCSO who spotted Saunders standing by the road in the early hours of December 2, last year.

She told him her attacker was a black man driving a blue car.

Mr Hargreaves said a stranger, who matched the vague description, was arrested later that day and taken to Grays police station.

He had to endure an intimate examination, and had his DNA and photographs taken before being held in custody for 22 hours. Meanwhile, Saunders underwent a medical examination before eventually admitting to lying – a lie which cost police an estimated £4,500.

Yesterday, at Basildon Crown Court, Judge Michael Brooke QC said: “It was only after contacting a solicitor the following day that she decided to call a halt and admit the whole thing was a false allegation.

“Meanwhile, the victim of her behaviour had been interviewed under caution and then released on police bail. He must have had a ghastly time.”

Judge Brooke said he did not accept her claim that she told the PCSO she didn't want to contact police at the time of the alleged incident.

He added: "She brought this on herself.

"She was not a baby. She could have said at any time that it wasn't true, that she was being hysterical."

Saunders, of Goodmayes Lane, Ilford, pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice at an earlier hearing.

http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/3604223.Woman_jailed_over_false_rape_claim/