

Woman's false rape claims

Published: 10:23

Thursday 10 September 2009

A WOMAN who cried rape has pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice.

Beverley Stephenson told police she was attacked by three men who burst into her home, Durham Crown Court heard.

Three men were arrested and each spent several hours in police cells before detectives concluded Stephenson was not telling the truth.

She was spoken to again and this time said she had been attacked by a man she met over the internet.

Prosecuting, Amanda Rippon told the court: "Her second account was that she had invited the man she met on the internet to her house.

"They had coffee together and she claimed he then became overly-familiar.

"The prosecution simply cannot accept this woman has been raped, although it may be she will have to be sentenced on the basis she lied about the circumstances."

Stephenson, 42, of Eighth Street, Horden, admitted perverting the course of justice between April 5 and May 14 last year.

Alexia Zimbler, defending, applied for a pre-sentence report.

"That could normally be done in about three weeks, but Ms Stephenson's mother is seriously ill and the prognosis is not good.

"She lives in America and Ms Stephenson would like to fly out in the next few days to be with her."

Judge Peter Armstrong bailed Stephenson on condition she returns to court to be sentenced on October 26.

The judge banned the publication of the names of the men falsely accused of rape.

<https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/woman-s-false-rape-claims-1-1043958>