

# Rape charge man cleared

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BY COVENTRY LIVE

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A Rugby man accused of raping a young woman behind a town medical centre has been cleared by a jury at Warwick Crown Court.

Kevin Ford, aged 33, of King Edward Road had denied raping the 21-year-old, who can't be named for legal reasons, on June 26 last year.

The jury deliberated for more than four hours before returning a not-guilty verdict.

The court had been told that the same woman had made a rape allegation against another man four years ago but the case had not gone to trial.

The jury had been told that Ford and the woman did have intercourse along a secluded path behind Whitehall Medical Centre in Lower Hillmorton Road last summer, and prosecutor Adrian Keeling said this had been against the woman's wishes.

But Trevor Berriman, defending, said the sex was with her consent and at her instigation because her relationship with her boyfriend was on the rocks.

He suggested to her that she had made the rape claim because she was concerned about how to explain grazing on her back.

Of her evidence that her relationship with her boyfriend was happy, he suggested that was "as true as the rest of your evidence in this court".

She accepted that in respect of her earlier rape complaint in January 1998 she had not expressed her "lack of consent" to that man.

Mr Berriman added: "Every indication you gave to Mr Ford was that you were a completely willing participant."

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/local-news/rape-charge-man-cleared-3173047>