

# Woman makes up rape story, wastes ‘significant hours’ of police time

JENNIFER EDER 09:43, Sep 25 2018



SUPPLIED

**She claimed she was pulled into a car and raped while walking home one night. (File photo)**

**A woman who made a false rape complaint has agreed to front up to the police investigators whose time she wasted, in an attempt to make amends.**

**The 27-year-old, who cannot be named, told a detective she was pulled into a car and raped while walking home from a bar in Blenheim in February.**

**But after a medical examination, extensive investigations and a DVD evidence statement, police found the woman was lying.**

**After she admitted a charge of making a false complaint to police, a judge referred the woman to restorative justice, where she will meet with the victims of her offending.**

**Police said they had wasted “significant hours” on the investigation, and other important cases had been set aside so they could investigate the alleged rape.**

**A police summary of facts said after the woman contacted police, she had a medical examination, as was procedure.**

**She told the doctor she had not had sex for about 10 days before the alleged attack, a police summary of facts said.**

**The next day she went to the Blenheim police station and after promising to tell the truth, gave an evidential statement recorded on DVD.**

**The woman said she left the bar about midnight, and was walking home along Weld St when a black Holden Commodore pulled up beside her.**

**She claimed a man opened the back door and grabbed her bag, pulling her into the back seat, and then raped her.**

**Another man drove the Commodore further on Weld St, and eventually pulled over near Hospital Rd, where the man in the back pushed her onto the footpath, the woman said. She walked home and went to bed, she said.**

**After the woman's complaint, six investigators were put on the case, who made extensive inquiries, canvassing the Weld St area, the summary said.**

**Police later found on the night the woman claimed to have been raped, she had actually had consensual sex with a man she knew.**

**The woman must have known the medical examination would lead investigators to that man, police said.**

**She admitted a charge of making a false rape complaint at the Blenheim District Court on Monday.**

**The woman's lawyer Laurie Murdoch sought name suppression for her client, arguing publication could affect her children and her employment.**

**She also asked for no conviction to be entered, as they were considering applying for a discharge without conviction.**

**Judge David Ruth granted interim name suppression, but said final name suppression would have to be "fully argued" at sentencing.**

**He also referred the woman to restorative justice, where she would try to make amends to her victims.**

**Police officers involved in the rape investigation were expected to provide victim impact statements.**

**Judge Ruth remanded the woman on bail to October 30 for sentencing.**

**[The Marlborough Express](#)**

**<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/107328867/woman-makes-up-rape-story-wastes-significant-hours-of-police-time?rm=m>**

# Woman who lied about rape showed ‘vindictiveness I can’t even fathom’, says judge

JENNIFER EDER 17:05, Feb 20 2019



STUFF

**Dannielle Weir claimed she was pulled into a car at the corner of Weld and Muller, in Blenheim.**

**A woman who made a false rape claim has lost her bid for final name suppression, as a judge decides she should feel the “same sort of emotional outcomes” as her victim.**

**Dannielle Terese Weir, 28, has been convicted of making a false statement to police after claiming she was pulled into a car and raped while walking home alone in February last year.**

**She applied for final name suppression, arguing publication could affect her family and her mental health.**



GOOGLE MAPS

**Weir was pushed out of the car near Hospital Rd, she told police.**

**But Judge David Ruth said the offending had undermined what real rape victims go through, and any hardship from being identified was the normal result of criminal offending.**

**Weir reported the rape on February 19, and agreed to a medical examination, telling the doctor she had not had sex for about 10 days before the alleged attack, a police summary of facts said.**

**Weir described leaving a bar about midnight, and walking home along Weld St when a black Holden Commodore pulled up beside her.**

**She claimed a man opened the back door, pulled her into the back seat and raped her, while another man drove south. She said she was pushed out of the car near Hospital Rd.**

**Six investigators were put on the case, making extensive inquiries in the area.**

**But several people came forward saying Weir had consensual sex with a man on the night she claimed she was raped, and lied about it to police, which Weir later admitted.**

**She must have known the medical examination would lead investigators to that man, police said.**

**Police said they had wasted “significant hours” on the investigation, and other “valid and legitimate” cases were put on hold.**

**Weir, also known as Dani Livingstone, admitted a charge of making a false rape complaint in September, and appeared for sentencing at the Blenheim District Court on Monday.**

**Her lawyer Laurie Murdoch said Weir met with the man for a restorative justice meeting, promising not to seek final name suppression, which she back-tracked on after seeing a psychologist.**

**Judge Ruth said publication would “relieve the victim’s hardship” and clear his name after months of suspicion.**

**“He has had some threats because of the allegation against him, endangering his safety,” Judge Ruth said.**

**“This is a situation where a completely innocent person has had the suspicion of false charges on them. If some people hadn’t come forward in the investigation, we might be sitting in front of a jury right now.”**

**The false allegation added to the difficulties faced by genuine rape victims coming forward, he said.**

**“It undermines the whole process. People will point to you and say, ‘why should we take genuine victims seriously’ when there are cases like yours, when you put a man through severe hardship through some vindictiveness I can’t even fathom,” Judge Ruth said.**

**He accepted publication would affect Weir’s mental health, but said it was a normal consequence of offending, and not “extreme hardship”.**

**“Those same sort of emotional outcomes have been visited upon your victim,” Judge Ruth said.**

**“It may well be that there are repercussions for you and your family but I’m frankly of the view it would be quite irresponsible of me to suppress your name.”**

**He convicted and discharged Weir, and refused final name suppression.**

**[The Marlborough Express](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/110713917/woman-who-lied-about-rape-showed-vindictiveness-i-cant-even-fathom-says-judge)**

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