

Prison for false rape claim woman

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A WOMAN has been jailed after falsely accusing a man of raping her. Stacey Challoner, 20, told police John Mullholland had taken her to a wood and raped her against a tree in April last year.



FALSE allegation: Stacey Challoner.

A WOMAN has been jailed after falsely accusing a man of raping her.

Stacey Challoner, 20, told police John Mulholland had taken her to a wood and raped her against a tree in April last year.

In fact the pair had a fling, but she made up the rape claims after her partner demanded to know if she had been unfaithful while he was in prison.

The court was told Challoner, from Moorfield Avenue, Denton, had made up the allegations last August after being quizzed by her long-term boyfriend who suspected her of cheating.

The mother, who has three children to care for, admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice at an earlier hearing.

Prosecuting, William Donnelly said Challoner's partner first made a complaint to police when she became distressed after he had asked "did he force himself on you."

Later she was interviewed and claimed that after having too much to drink at a friend's house she began walking home and bumped into Mulholland who led her to woodland and raped her.

When police quizzed Mr Mulholland they became suspicious of Challoner's story and she was spoken to again.

She then admitted her claims were false but said she had made them up because she lived in fear of her "bullying" partner, and admitted having consensual sex with Mr Mulholland once at her home.

In mitigation, Carolyn Smith said Challoner had no previous convictions and had made the allegations out of fear. She said the whole relationship with her partner had been "peppered with manipulation and violence."

She added that Challoner was "genuinely sorry" for making the allegation and asked for any custodial sentence to be suspended.

But Judge Iain Hamilton told Challoner: "I have no sense that you understand the gravity of what you have done — there is no real sense of remorse, although I accept that you pose a low risk of committing a further offence.

"The allegation that you made is of such a serious nature that any person — both women and men — must be deterred from making such an allegation. I have thought long and hard about giving you a suspended prison sentence but I can't do so and be consistent with my public duty."

Challoner was given a four-month sentence at Manchester Crown Court.

Outside court Mr Mulholland, of Wythenshawe, told how he tried twice to commit suicide after he and his family were subjected to abuse after the allegations came to light.

"My kids are aged three and six and they have been spat at. I have been called a rapist in the street. My wife has stood by me and we are planning to move to Ireland."

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160203181019/http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/local-news/prison-for-false-rape-claim-woman-943209>