



Judge sentences woman who accused deputy of rape

Woman headed to prison



Updated: 1:18 PM CDT Jun 12, 2015

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A jury says a woman lied about being raped by a deputy.
SCOTT COUNTY, Miss. —

A jury has convicted a woman who said a Scott County deputy raped her of lying about the incident.

She was sentenced Friday to the maximum -- two years in prison. The judge gave her credit for the six months she has already served in jail.

The jury found the woman guilty of retaliation against a law-enforcement officer, a relatively new state law. Prosecutors called the woman a “moody crybaby” in court and said she made a “dishonest rape allegation.

The woman said the deputy assaulted her in the back seat of his cruiser. Her attorney said doctors never performed a proper rape kit and said she was thrown in solitary confinement for months when she tried to report the incident.

Defense attorneys said the case was the biggest cover-up since Watergate. They said police never investigated her accusations against Deputy Michael Townsend.

“Instead of him being on trial, she’s on trial. There was never no charges brought against him. He never missed a day’s work, suspended or nothing,” said the victim’s father, Kenneth Wilcher.

Larry McMurtry, assistant district attorney for Scott County, said he was pleased with the verdict.

“The jury didn’t think that, and they thought she was as untruthful as she had been all along,” he said.

Her family members said they are still fighting.

“We will appeal to the highest court,” Wilcher said. “It’s not right. I’m scared for her safety.”

The judge set a \$10,000 appeal bond for the woman, which if she can post it, will allow her to be free from jail while her attorney appeals the verdict.

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