

Man's car damaged by partner

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A WOMAN who cried rape against her boyfriend later smashed his car window.

Adelyn Marsden continued her relationship with Graham Smith despite falsely accusing him of rape, Durham Crown Court heard.

She was given a suspended prison sentence for that offence in November of last year.

"Contact continued after that," said Stuart Graham, prosecuting. "In the early hours of Christmas Eve she sent a string of text messages to Mr Smith.

"One urged him to get up, and as he went downstairs he heard the window of his Nissan car shatter."

The court heard Mr Smith declined to pursue a complaint against Marsden, saying that both he and her were at fault over the incident.

Marsden, 23, of Urban Gardens, Concord, Washington, admitted criminal damage and breaching a suspended sentence.

She has previous convictions for making a false allegation of rape and for criminal damage.

Penny Moreland, defending, said: "She is in a relationship that everyone but her can see is doing her no good.

"The false allegation of rape was made in the heat of the moment, but she retracted it quickly afterwards.

"That may be why the court was able to suspend the sentence, which on the face of it does seem a lenient penalty for that type of offence.

"I have a letter from Mr Smith in which he says he forgives her and he still sees a future together for the pair of them."

The Recorder, Mr Peter Johnson, sentenced Marsden to a 24-month supervision order.

The recorder told her: "I am not going to activate the suspended sentence today, but you must realise any further offending and you will be in danger of going straight to custody.

"All your mitigation today will have been used up and the court may have little alternative.

"You need to think carefully about that and also the interests of your young child.

"I hope this court never sees you again."

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