

No jail time for woman who faked abduction, rape

Crime

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By

By Justin McClelland, Staff Writer

NONE —

LEBANON — A 21-year-old college student who faked her abduction and rape earlier this year will not be going to jail.

Kristen Lamb, 607 Franklin Ave., Lebanon, was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to 40 hours of community service after pleading guilty to making false alarms, a first-degree misdemeanor. She was also given a suspended sentence of 180 days in jail and two years probation.

Lamb, a nursing student at the University of Cincinnati, spoke briefly in court, apologizing for lying about the abduction.

"I would like to be able to recoup the public dollars spent between the use of life squads and the time taken by police officers," said Judge Mark Bogen.

Bogen said determining the true financial cost of Lamb's hoax would be difficult, but said the \$1,000 fine would probably be "only a fraction of what was spent."

Lamb told the court she had been staying with an aunt in Kentucky, but Bogen insisted she return to Warren County to help with her recovery and reparations.

Bogen said Lamb could choose where she performed her community service, but suggested she volunteer at the Rape and Crisis Center of Warren County.

Lamb's fake abduction was reported in May. Around 4 a.m. May 24, Lamb left the home she shared with her parents, taking a small pillow case, blue bandana and four zip ties to aid her story, according to Lebanon police Sgt. Jeff Mitchell. Lamb walked into a wooded area north of her home where she stayed for close to 18 hours.

During that time, police said, she bound her wrists with the zip ties. Her mother found her in their front yard shortly after 10 p.m. Lamb told her parents and police she had been kidnapped by a group of men, taken to the woods in a car and raped.

Mitchell said Lamb's story was devoid of detail, and that made police suspicious.

"It wasn't there were holes in the story as much as the lack of detail," Mitchell said. "There are certain things you are inclined to remember. In this event, there was nothing."

Three days later, Lamb took detectives to the wooded area and showed them the pillowcase and one zip tie. Lamb said she acted alone and no one had knowledge of her plan.

In a phone interview shortly after, Lamb told police she had faked the abduction. Lamb's father, Marc Lamb, said Lamb had become jealous of a sibling's wedding and also faced stress from school. He said he would stand by his daughter, but understood she had to face the consequences of her actions.

Lamb declined to comment after the sentencing Monday.

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