

Jail for woman who screamed rape when caught stealing from car

Drug user Leanne Sproson, aged 38, upset his children when she claimed she had been attacked

BY STUART ABEL COURT REPORTER

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Sproson is to blame for a spate of thefts from cars. File image. (Image: Picture posed by model)

A vile thief shouted rape when a man caught her in his car – so that his children could hear.

Drug user Leanne Sproson called for someone to ring the police after the resident saw her in his vehicle outside his home late at night.

The man's children heard the cries of rape and assault and were left distressed on Christmas Eve, Plymouth Crown Court heard.

Jailing her for eight months, a judge said that all the resident was trying to do was stop her stealing from his car.

Prolific thief Sproson was in breach of a suspended prison sentence imposed for breaking into more cars.

Judge Paul Darlow said: "It seems to me I have no alternative but to impose a prison sentence given your record for similar offences and the fact you were in breach of a suspended term."



The case is being heard by resident judge Paul Darlow at Plymouth Crown Court

Sproson, of Pike Road, Efford, pleaded guilty to vehicle interference and theft on Christmas Eve.

She admitted that those offences put her in breach of a suspended sentence for earlier thefts from vehicles.

Judith Constable, for the Crown Prosecution Service, said the householder spotted Sproson in his car outside his Mannamead home at 12.30am.

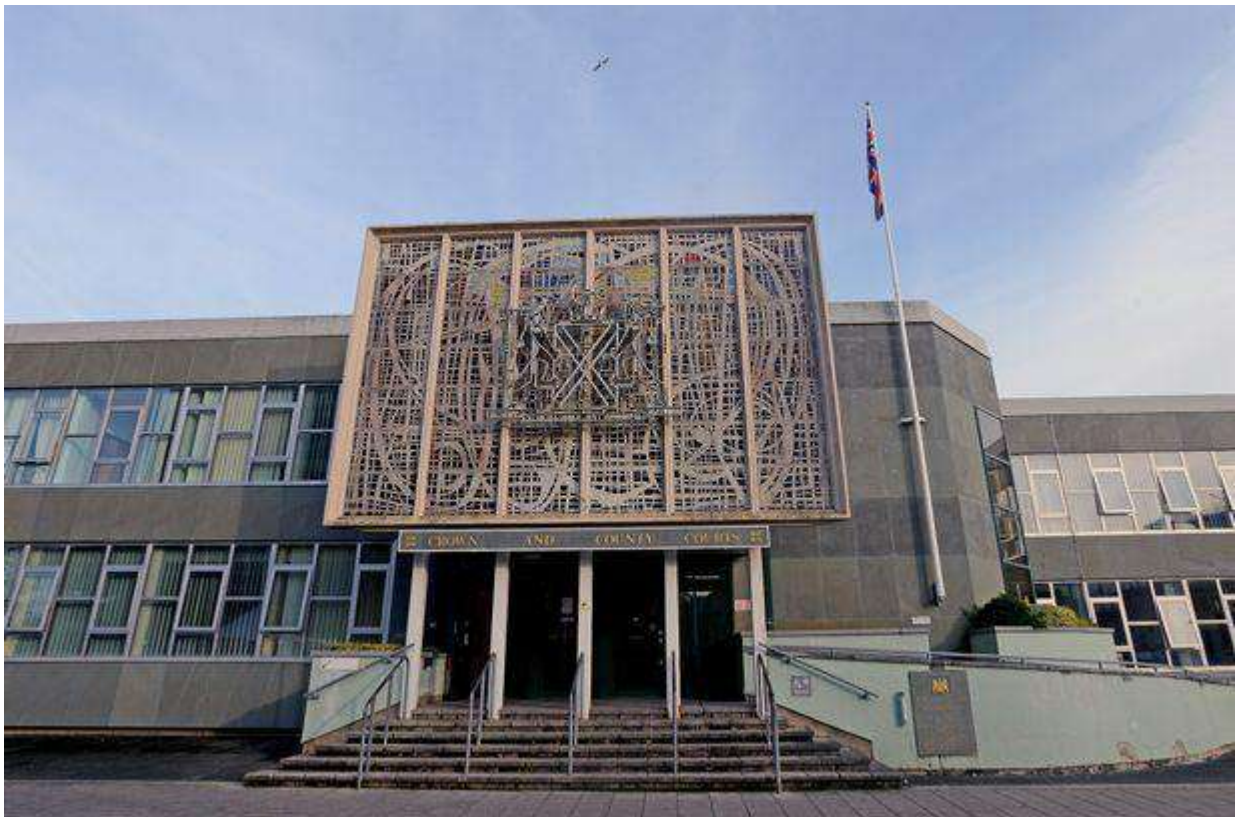
She added that he took her by the shoulders.

Mrs Constable said: “She shouted ‘rape’ and ‘assault’ and ‘call the police’. That was heard by his children who were distressed by the whole incident.”

The barrister added that officers found a bag full of paperwork stolen from a doctor’s car.

The court heard that she had not fully complied with the probation service.

Katie Churcher, for Sproson, said her client had been voluntarily wearing a GPS tag so that her whereabouts could be tracked.



The case was heard at Plymouth Crown Court (Image: File image)

She added that she found her mother was seriously ill the day before Christmas Eve.

Miss Churcher said: “She ended up in an argument with her partner and took illicit substances which is the way she coped with her troubles in the past.”

Regarding the shouts of rape, Miss Churcher added: “It is not something she is proud of.”

The barrister added that she was now prescribed the heroin substitute methadone.

Judge Darlow handed Sproson a total of eight months in prison for old and new offences.

He also imposed an 18-month exclusion order banning her from going near her victim's home.

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/jail-woman-who-screamed-rape-2415168>