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ARCHIVE

Woman pleads innocent to perjury-related charges

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Cindy Annette Fisher pleaded innocent to three perjury-related charges Tuesday, and later maintained that she never lied when she told investigators that a Crystal River man raped her. "I'll fight this all the way," Fisher said after her hearing.

Fisher, 25, accused Arthur Lee Clark of sexually assaulting her Aug. 5 while she walked home from the JR Food Mart in Crystal River, arrest papers show. Fisher gave a description of her attacker to Crystal River Police officers.

Clark was arrested that night because he matched the description Fisher gave and because he was in the neighborhood when the attack occurred, the papers say. Authorities charged him with sexual battery and held him at the Citrus County Jail in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

But prosecutors say Fisher lied about the attack. They allege that, when under oath, Fisher said that Clark actually never raped her.

In addition, physical evidence failed to link Clark to the attack, court papers say.

The state later dropped all charges against Clark and lodged three charges against Fisher: filing false report of commission of a crime, false official statement and perjury in an unofficial proceeding.

Fisher said the trouble started when she took a polygraph test. She said the test results did not support her statements and that Inverness Police Sgt. Kevin Murphy, who administered the test, told her the results could be used at Clark's trial.

Fisher said that, although it wasn't true, she signed a statement that said Clark never had intercourse with her during the attack. She said Murphy told her that she could face perjury charges unless she signed such a statement.

Murphy said Tuesday that he pointed out inconsistencies in Fisher's story and discussed the merits and logic of the case.

He said he has administered such tests and conducted interviews for 14 years. "I know better than to say anything that would be" misunderstood that way, Murphy said.

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