No charges against girl who falsely claimed abduction, rape

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BELLEVIEW - A girl who told police she was abducted and raped, then recanted her story, will not face charges.

The Belleview Police Department received a letter Monday stating that the State Attorney’s Office will not pursue the matter. Signed by Assistant State Attorney Robin Arnold, the letter, dated May 24, states in part, “based on the totality of the facts and circumstances surrounding the case, the interests of justice are not best served in pursuing criminal prosecution in the case.”

Officers say that on May 13 they responded to Southeast 54th Avenue in reference to a reported sexual battery. The 11-year-old girl told authorities she was bound with duct tape and kidnapped at gunpoint and knifepoint by a black man wearing a ski mask. She said she was taken to a wooded area behind the Publix off U.S. 441, where she was sexually abused.

The community was on edge for days, as officers searched for a suspect.
The girl later recanted her story and told officials she made it up because she had damaged a dining room table and was going to get into trouble with her parents.