Rape allegation leads to tragedy

A Coventry father hanged himself after being told he couldn’t see his five children because a rape allegation had been made against him, an inquest was told.

Coroner David Sarginson heard that Sonny Wilson, aged 34, of Jubilee Crescent, Radford, was found dead by his flatmate on August 15.

The inquest, held in Coventry, was told Mr Wilson had been feeling depressed after being refused unsupervised contact with his children by his wife and social services.

He had separated from his wife in April and was later interviewed by police after a young teenager claimed he raped her. The allegation was dismissed in August.

In a text message sent to his wife Sally on the afternoon of his death, Mr Wilson said: “I can’t be without my kids. A bird can’t fly with no wings.”

The coroner was told Mr Wilson had earlier that day been told he couldn’t carry out a planned visit with his children.

Two texts from Mrs Wilson, sent at 4pm and 4.20pm, were found unread on his phone, asking him if he was going to meet the family at McDonald’s that afternoon.

Mr Sarginson recorded a verdict that Mr Wilson killed himself and added: “I do realise that social services are in a very difficult situation to know if he was innocent. “If they thought he was innocent and he was in fact guilty they were open to criticism and also if they thought he was guilty and he was innocent they would be open to criticism.

“In the modern jargon, they were between a rock and a hard place.

“I do think that perhaps consideration for one’s fellow creatures is called for from time to time and it didn’t happen in this case.”