



Crime & Justice

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Woman jailed for false rape allegation

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A woman from south-east Essex has today (Thursday) been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment for lying to police that she had been raped.

Cathy Richardson told officers in November 2012 and February 2013 that she had been sexually assaulted by a man known to her several times during two months in 2012.

A man in his 20s from the Southend area was arrested in November 2012 on suspicion of rape and later released without charge following a series of police interviews.

On Tuesday, February 26, Cathy Richardson was arrested at her home on Viking Court in Shoebury and charged in May with one count of perverting the course of justice. The 26-year-old unemployed woman from Viking Court in Shoebury was released on police bail prior to her initial appearance at Southend Magistrates Court on Friday, May 31 after which she was released on court bail.

Senior Investigating Officer, DCI Scott Cannon, said: "When a false allegation of rape is made, it heightens the difficulty for those victims who have suffered from sexual abuse.

"The outcome of this prosecution should act as a very clear message to those people who deliberately lie to police and significantly hinder a major investigation. The actions of Cathy Richardson in this case led to an innocent man being arrested, having to spend time in a custody cell and undergoing an intrusive and personal medical examination. He had to endure the stigma of being suspected of a serious offence, only to be cleared of a crime he knew he had not committed.

"Detectives spent many hours of police time on this investigation which could have been better spent on protecting some of society's most vulnerable victims and pursuing real offenders."

People who make false and malicious allegations jeopardise the hard work that Essex Police and partner agencies have done to increase the confidence levels of victims reporting sexual crime. My Team will relentlessly pursue every line of enquiry in a search for the truth and will always strive to bring

sexual offenders to justice. I would like to reassure every victim of sexual abuse that Essex Police takes any report very seriously and will offer all the support and protection we can during every investigation.”



At Basildon Crown Court on Thursday, August 8, she was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.

<http://crimeandjustice.co.uk/2013/08/08/woman-jailed-for-false-rape-allegation/>