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Woman gets 3 years' probation after false rape claim

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A federal judge sentenced a woman who collected more than \$25,000 in disability benefits after falsely claiming she was raped by a co-worker to three years of probation Tuesday.

Senior U.S. District Judge James Turk also ordered Elizabeth Gray to pay restitution to the Social Security Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services for the benefits Gray had collected.

Gray had pleaded guilty to making false statements to the Social Security Administration and to health care fraud in March.

Gray was also originally charged with lying under oath in connection with her testimony at a federal court trial in 2000 that a co-worker at Sci-Med Corp. had raped her. Gray had brought a sexual harassment lawsuit against the company. But the jury found against her.

Federal authorities have argued that Gray's sexual relationship with her co-worker was consensual and pointed out that a grand jury declined to charge the co-worker in connection with the incident.

Turk agreed to drop that charge and a mail fraud charge, following a plea agreement worked out between Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Bondurant and Roanoke attorney Richard Lawrence, who represented Gray.

Roanoke attorney Terry Grimes, who represented Gray during the civil trial, said when reached for comment after the hearing that he took Gray's claim that she had been raped at face value and did not know she was lying.

Grimes also said that at the time, Gray was under the care of a psychiatrist for the post-traumatic stress disorder she said she experienced as a result of the alleged rape.

https://www.roanoke.com/webmin/news/woman-gets-years-probation-after-false-rape-claim/article_3a9722f0-5184-5e55-9de0-b38508fffeb0.html