

# **Rape charge against dentist is dismissed**

**By Jan Ackerman**

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**The district attorney's office has dismissed criminal charges against a Wilkins dentist who was scheduled to go on trial for rape yesterday.**

**The district attorney decided not to prosecute charges of rape, indecent assault, simple assault, unlawful restraint and involuntary deviate sexual intercourse against Dr. Clinton Runco. The reason was the physical and emotional condition of a Gibsonia woman who contended that she was raped, said Assistant District Attorney Kim Berkeley Clark.**

**Runco, 42, of Braddsley Drive, was arrested in February based on allegations made by a woman, 34, who has three children and who told police that Runco had been a close friend of her husband for 16 years.**

Clark said doctors for the woman, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, felt that she was not able to undergo a trial because of her physical condition, which was compounded by emotional stress. She said her office decided in late October not to prosecute the case.

Ellen Viakley, one of Runco's attorneys, was pleased with the outcome. "From the outset, we believed in Dr. Runco's innocence," she said. "He has suffered tremendously as a result of these accusations."

The woman told police that she visited Runco's office at 6300 Forward Ave., Squirrel Hill, about 12:30 a.m. Feb. 5 after calling his home to complain about an abscessed tooth that kept her awake the night before.

The woman said that when she leaned her head back to show Runco the tooth, he pushed her to the floor, took her to another room, removed her clothes and physically assaulted her.

According to the police report, Runco admitted that an encounter occurred, but said it was consensual.

Early in the case, Runco's attorneys, Viakley and William Manifesto, requested the woman's medical records in an attempt to show that she had been treated previously for psychiatric problems and had once made a false rape accusation.