

Police say woman lied about rape

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Stafford County police filed charges yesterday against a woman they say was lying when she told police she'd been raped early yesterday morning.

Stephanie D. Kendle, 21, of Kaiser Drive in Spotsylvania County is charged with filing a false report and driving on a suspended license, Stafford Sheriff Ralph Williams said this morning.

According to Williams, Kendle told police that she left a nightclub on U.S. 17 about 1:30 a.m. and dropped off two friends in the Olde Forge area. She said she was at the stoplight on U.S. 1 and U.S. 17 in Falmouth, heading home, when a man jumped into her car and forced her into the passenger's seat.

Police said Kendle reported that the stranger drove her north on U.S. 1 to an unknown location in Stafford, where he raped her numerous times. She said she escaped when the man walked into the woods to use the bathroom. The woman drove to Mary Washington Hospital, where she reported the incident about 5 a.m.

Detective Jeff DeBord said that after investigating Kendle's story, police determined that she had consensual sex with a man who lives in the Stafford Courthouse area. DeBord said police found the man in Prince William County yesterday and learned that Kendle, who is married, had been with him from about 2 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. Other witnesses supported the man's story, DeBord said.

DeBord said there was other evidence that didn't match the woman's story, but he declined to elaborate. Kendle had been to the club and had dropped someone off in Olde Forge, police said.

DeBord said that after she was charged, Kendle again insisted that she'd been raped by a stranger.

Stafford police also determined yesterday that they had received false information regarding another alleged sexual assault. A 16-year-old boy had reported being abducted and raped by two masked men last week in the area of the Staffordboro 7-Eleven.

Williams said police have since learned that the alleged attack took place in Fredericksburg and involved only one suspect. The case has been turned over to city police, he said.