# Man caught in lewd act at Belfast shopping park avoids prison with suspended sentence



A 38-year-old man, Adrian Matthew Reid, was caught engaging in a sexual act with a woman at Cityside Retail & Leisure Park in Belfast on the morning of 3 August last year. The incident, which occurred around 11am, was witnessed by numerous shoppers, including a motorist with his wife and young child.

The motorist, appalled by the scene, confronted Reid, who initially apologised but subsequently became aggressive, reportedly responding with, “Who do you think you are talking to?” Following the confrontation, the concerned member of the public contacted the police. Upon their arrival, both Reid and his female companion were arrested.

During subsequent court proceedings at Belfast Crown Court, it was revealed that the woman involved had passed away earlier this year, leading to the formal withdrawal of her case. Reid ultimately pleaded guilty to committing an act of a lewd, obscene, and disgusting nature in public that outraged public decency. He attributed his behaviour to intoxication, claiming he had no recollection of the events due to his level of alcohol consumption.

The court heard from a probation officer who indicated that Reid maintained he would not knowingly engage in such conduct. Reid, whose address is listed as Oldpark Avenue in North Belfast, informed the court about his responsibilities, including caring for two uncles, and noted the adverse effects on his mental health following his sister's death. His legal representative highlighted Reid’s “traumatic and unsettled” upbringing, suggesting that he has since been reducing his alcohol intake and working towards personal reform.

Judge Gilpin acknowledged the seriousness of Reid’s actions, especially given the presence of children in a busy public area, deeming the case grave enough to warrant a custodial sentence. However, he opted to suspend the four-month prison term for a period of two years, taking into account Reid’s familial duties. The judge cautioned Reid that any reoffending would lead to imprisonment, a warning to which Reid responded gratefully, saying, “Thank you, Your Honour.”

As the case garnered public attention, it highlighted issues of public decency and personal responsibility amidst troubling circumstances.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/courts/face-of-man-charged-over-belfast-shopping-centre-car-park-sex-act/a750935904.html> - This article reports on Adrian Reid being charged with outraging public decency after a woman allegedly performed a sex act on him in a busy car park at Cityside Retail Park in Belfast on August 3, 2022.
2. <https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/courts/couple-face-trial-over-frisky-sex-act-outside-shopping-centre/a1721169950.html> - This piece details the charges against Adrian Reid and Gillian Portis for engaging in a sexual act outside a shopping centre car park in front of stunned customers, leading to a crown court trial.
3. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-due-in-court-over-charges-linked-to-sex-act-in-public-with-man-at-belfast-retail-centre-has-died-court-told-KXFXJ4EWR5EZXJPUQYB2ZCK5GA/> - This article informs that Gillian Portis, who was charged alongside Adrian Reid for a public sex act at Cityside Retail Park, passed away before the case proceeded to court.
4. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/news/face-of-man-in-court-for-ni-shopping-centre-sex-act/a1893249320.html> - This report covers Adrian Reid being charged and bailed over the alleged incident at the entrance to the car park at Cityside Retail Park, where a woman allegedly performed a sex act on him in broad daylight.
5. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/persistent-offender-with-over-100-criminal-convictions-jailed-over-belfast-burglary/41804069.html> - This article discusses a persistent offender with over 100 criminal convictions being jailed for a burglary in Belfast, highlighting the severity of criminal activities in the area.
6. <https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/belfast-crown-court-sees-man-28685105> - This piece reports on a man being sentenced to 13 years for a 'campaign of horror' against his daughter, underscoring the serious nature of sexual offences addressed in Belfast Crown Court.
7. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/dad-caught-sex-act-retail-35164207> - Please view link - unable to able to access data