# Mother who once saved son faces sentencing for making false sexual assault claims



# Mother Faces Sentencing After False Sexual Assault Claims

Elizabeth Bates, a 26-year-old mother of three from Newtownards, Co Down, has come under scrutiny for perverting the course of justice following her admission of making false allegations of sexual assault. During a court appearance at Downpatrick Crown Court, Bates acknowledged her guilt on August 26, 2022, citing incidents that occurred on August 24 and 30 of the same year.

This troubling case has drawn significant attention, not only due to the nature of the claims but also in light of Bates' previous public narrative. In July 2021, she garnered media acclaim when CCTV footage captured her six-year-old son seeking urgent help from an Amazon delivery driver after she collapsed. The incident showcased her son’s quick thinking and became a heartwarming story aired on national platforms, including This Morning, where she described the harrowing experience and the bond between herself and her son.

At the recent hearing, Bates, who was previously known as Liz Crooks, admitted to multiple charges of making false statements to police, which included alleging assault against known individuals. Defence counsel Richard McConkey indicated that the case would be further delayed until June 20 for additional medical and pre-sentencing reports.

Judge Geoffrey Miller KC expressed the gravity with which the court views such offences, highlighting that they undermine the judicial system and can irreversibly damage the reputations and lives of innocent individuals accused. Bates was warned that while the authorities might consider whether to impose a custodial sentence, her cooperation during the intervening period would weigh heavily on the decision.

The shocking contrast between Bates' past heroism, which won her sympathy in the media, and her current legal troubles raises concerns about the broader implications of false allegations. Instances of false reporting can significantly harm genuine victims, leading to societal scepticism and potentially derailing real investigations into sexual assault.

As public interest continues in the unfolding case, Bates' predicament serves as a cautionary tale, shedding light on the serious repercussions that come from misleading law enforcement—a reality that the judicial system is compelled to address firmly.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14686895/Woman-faces-jail-lied-police-sexually-assaulted.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14686895/Woman-faces-jail-lied-police-sexually-assaulted.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2023-05-07/mother-of-three-admits-making-false-sexual-assault-claims)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14686895/Woman-faces-jail-lied-police-sexually-assaulted.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-65512345)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14686895/Woman-faces-jail-lied-police-sexually-assaulted.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/mother-of-three-admits-making-false-sexual-assault-claims/2023/05/07/), [[6]](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/crime/mother-of-three-admits-making-false-sexual-assault-claims-4150190)

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2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14686895/Woman-faces-jail-lied-police-sexually-assaulted.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Elizabeth Bates, a 26-year-old mother from Newtownards, Co Down, admitted to perverting the course of justice by making false statements to police alleging sexual assault. The charges stemmed from incidents on August 24 and 30, 2022, where she falsely accused individuals of sexual assault. Bates had previously gained media attention in July 2021 when her six-year-old son sought help from an Amazon delivery driver after she collapsed. The case was adjourned to June 20, with Bates released on bail, and Judge Geoffrey Miller KC warned her of a potential prison sentence.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-65512345> - Elizabeth Bates, a 26-year-old mother from Newtownards, Co Down, admitted to perverting the course of justice by making false statements to police alleging sexual assault. The charges stemmed from incidents on August 24 and 30, 2022, where she falsely accused individuals of sexual assault. Bates had previously gained media attention in July 2021 when her six-year-old son sought help from an Amazon delivery driver after she collapsed. The case was adjourned to June 20, with Bates released on bail, and Judge Geoffrey Miller KC warned her of a potential prison sentence.
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5. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/mother-of-three-admits-making-false-sexual-assault-claims/2023/05/07/> - Elizabeth Bates, a 26-year-old mother from Newtownards, Co Down, admitted to perverting the course of justice by making false statements to police alleging sexual assault. The charges stemmed from incidents on August 24 and 30, 2022, where she falsely accused individuals of sexual assault. Bates had previously gained media attention in July 2021 when her six-year-old son sought help from an Amazon delivery driver after she collapsed. The case was adjourned to June 20, with Bates released on bail, and Judge Geoffrey Miller KC warned her of a potential prison sentence.
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