# Social worker jailed for six months after sexual encounter with vulnerable woman under his care



A social worker has received a six-month prison sentence following a distressing incident involving a sexual encounter with a vulnerable woman under his care. Martin Rosenfield, aged 62, was found guilty of misconduct in a public office after engaging in inappropriate conduct while employed by Salford Council. The encounter commenced when the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, initiated sexual activity during a visit to her home—a situation Rosenfield did not resist.

The court heard how their relationship had developed over a series of text messages, which included signs of increasing intimacy such as signing off with an 'x', a gesture typically understood as affectionate. The circumstances surrounding their encounter were further complicated by a case of mistaken identity involving an unsolicited explicit image sent to the woman from an unknown number. Believing the image to be from Rosenfield, she sent him sexual messages in response.

Rosenfield subsequently visited the woman at her home, where they shared a kiss, leading to sexual activity. Following this encounter, he messaged her to describe the experience as "wonderful," a sentiment contested in court as lacking credibility. The judge, Nicholas Dean KC, remarked that Rosenfield "should have resisted" the advances and recognised the inherent vulnerabilities of the woman, underscoring the serious breach of trust that his actions entailed.

This case mirrors broader concerns regarding the integrity of social workers, a profession expected to uphold the highest ethical standards due to their interactions with vulnerable populations. The implications of this outcome extend beyond just Rosenfield; they highlight a growing scrutiny of public officials in positions of care and trust. Similar cases have seen social workers penalised for misconduct, including Christopher Bradford, whose sexual relationship with a client suffering from post-natal depression led to a substantial prison sentence and removal from the social care register. The General Social Care Council has consistently reinforced that sexual relationships with service users are exploitative and a direct violation of professional boundaries.

Public trust in social services is paramount, and breaches, such as those seen in the cases of Margaret Finnigan, who defrauded housing benefits while managing a significant property portfolio, illustrate the detrimental impact misconduct can have on the credibility of entire professions. Meanwhile, ongoing incidents in law enforcement, like the arrest of Detective Constable Lee Cunliffe for child sex offences, underscore the necessity for rigorous accountability across public sectors where power dynamics can easily lead to abuses.

Judge Dean’s comments during Rosenfield’s sentencing reflect this wider public interest in safeguarding those who rely on social services. He mentioned that the consequences of such misconduct can be damaging not only for individuals involved but also for the broader community's trust in the professions designed to protect its most vulnerable members. Professional conduct bodies have been increasingly vigilant, ensuring that violations are met with significant repercussions to reinforce the ethical standards expected in roles of public service. Such measures aim to protect vulnerable populations and reaffirm that those in positions of authority cannot exploit their power without facing serious consequences.

As society demands accountability and ethical fortitude from public servants, the case of Martin Rosenfield serves as a grave reminder that the failure to uphold these standards can lead not just to personal ruin, but also to a wider erosion of trust in vital social institutions.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
2. Paragraph 5
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraph 6
5. Paragraph 5
6. Paragraph 5
7. Paragraph 5

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/uk-news/social-worker-jailed-after-profoundly-35234711> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gmp.police.uk/news/greater-manchester/news/news/2022/january/gmp-detective-jailed-for-child-sex-offences-and-misconduct-in-public-office/> - Detective Constable Lee Cunliffe, 40, from Bolton, was sentenced to eight years and four months in prison after pleading guilty to multiple child sex offences and misconduct in public office. The offences included attempting to arrange a child sex offence and possessing indecent images of children. Cunliffe's actions were discovered following an undercover operation where he engaged in explicit online conversations with someone he believed to be a mother with an eight-year-old child. His arrest led to a review of his previous cases, revealing further misconduct. Cunliffe was suspended from duty upon his arrest and has since been dismissed from Greater Manchester Police. The case highlights the importance of maintaining public trust and the severe consequences of breaching that trust within law enforcement.
3. <https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/social-worker-fined-over-housing-fraud/> - Margaret Finnigan, a former social worker from Liverpool, was fined over £110,000 after illegally claiming housing and council tax benefits for nine years while owning a £500,000 property portfolio. She pleaded guilty to claiming almost £40,000 in benefits between 1996 and 2005. The case was brought to light during a data matching exercise designed to identify fraud. Finnigan resigned from her position at the city council following the investigation. The prosecution serves as a warning against fraudulent activities and emphasizes the importance of integrity in public service roles.
4. <https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2007/09/21/jailed-social-worker-struck-off/> - Christopher Bradford, a former approved social worker employed by Hampshire Council, was jailed for 17 months after pleading guilty to having sex with a service user. The General Social Care Council (GSCC) found him guilty of misconduct, leading to his removal from the social care register. Bradford initiated a sexual relationship with a woman referred to him for counseling for post-natal depression. The GSCC emphasized the exploitative nature of the relationship, given the woman's dependence on him, and highlighted the breach of professional boundaries fundamental to social work practice.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-33779911> - Sean Dickinson, a senior social worker employed by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, was found guilty of misconduct after launching an abusive social media campaign against public figures, including David Cameron and Donald Trump. He sent offensive messages on Twitter, bringing the social work profession into disrepute. Dickinson expressed deep regret for his actions, stating he was going through a 'very dark period' when he posted the comments. The Health and Care Professions Council tribunal emphasized the responsibilities and standards expected of professionals and the impact of such behavior on public trust.
6. <https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/manchester/8330225.stm> - Lynne Greenwood, a former social worker from Rochdale, was struck off the professional register after stealing £52,742 from a charity she worked for. She was given an 11-month sentence, suspended for two years, after being convicted of two counts of theft. The General Social Care Council (GSCC) found her guilty of professional misconduct, leading to her removal from the register. The GSCC emphasized the importance of maintaining public trust and the serious breach of its code of practice resulting from Greenwood's actions.
7. <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/social-worker-struck-after-pretending-15048286> - Simon Manning, a former social worker for Manchester City Council, was struck off the professional register after falsifying records to suggest he visited a vulnerable child and spoke to his parents when he had not. Manning created records indicating he attended three visits to a two-year-old child, known as 'Child A,' which did not take place. He also failed to transfer the case to another local authority when required. The Health and Care Professions Tribunal Service found his actions amounted to a complete abrogation of the basic and fundamental duties required of a social worker.