# Couple given probation after sex act in Belfast city centre church sparks outrage



A couple caught engaging in sexual activity within the grounds of a Belfast city centre church has been sentenced to two years on probation. Karol Piotr Biernacik, aged 43, and Adrienne Surgenor, 35, who had no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to a charge of committing “a lewd, obscene, and disgusting act outraging public decency.” This incident has sparked significant outrage and discussions regarding respect for places of worship and the boundaries of public decency.

The couple's actions, taking place in the sacred vicinity of a church, mirror a concerning trend regarding conduct in religious spaces. Reports indicate a series of similar incidents that have occurred in Belfast. Another man, recently barred from the area surrounding St Mary’s Church on Chapel Lane after being accused of sexual activity within its confines, highlights an increasing scrutiny over such behaviours. The court imposed strict conditions, including a ban on consuming alcohol in public and entering specific areas, underscoring the community's distress regarding these acts.

Public sentiment remains strong against actions that exploit the sanctity of churches. A recent case involved a 32-year-old woman who admitted to having sex inside St Mary’s Church, resulting in charges for behaviour deemed obscene and a significant upset to parishioners. The court has emphasised the importance of respect for religious institutions, which serve as community pillars and spaces of refuge.

Moreover, the implications of these incidents extend beyond individual cases. They reflect a broader societal concern regarding decency and public behaviour, especially in places regarded as sacred. Recent statements from legal authorities assert that the community deserves protection from public acts that can provoke moral outrage. The ongoing dialogue about maintaining respect for worship spaces is crucial, especially in a city like Belfast, where community ties are often deeply intertwined with religious institutions.

As more cases emerge, the judiciary appears to be taking a firm stand on preserving public decency, signalling a need for greater awareness and respect for all places of worship. The actions of Biernacik and Surgenor are not merely legal infractions but evoke discussions about societal values in relation to sacred spaces.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/couple-caught-having-sex-in-grounds-of-belfast-city-centre-church-handed-probation-orders/a349814044.html), [[5]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/man-and-woman-facing-trial-over-allegations-of-having-sex-within-grounds-of-belfast-city-centre-church/a1201032258.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/29/man-accused-of-having-sex-in-belfast-church-is-barred-from-area/), [[3]](https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/20/pair-accused-of-having-public-sex-in-church-appear-in-court-in-belfast/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-caught-engaging-in-sex-act-in-side-room-of-a-chapel-has-been-jailed-5K7ST4LDTBAT7HL42HOOGUESOQ/), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-who-admitted-having-sex-inside-st-marys-church-in-chapel-lane-to-be-sentenced-next-month-U5TBTB5B2FFHHIRMA3KUORG2DI/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/woman-who-had-sex-in-belfast-chapel-to-be-sentenced-next-month/a1893990643.html)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/couple-caught-having-sex-in-grounds-of-belfast-city-centre-church-handed-probation-orders/a349814044.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/29/man-accused-of-having-sex-in-belfast-church-is-barred-from-area/> - A man accused of engaging in sexual activity inside a Belfast church was barred from returning to the area as a condition of his bail. The incident occurred at St Mary's Church on Chapel Lane, where the man and a co-accused were arrested for committing an act outraging public decency and disorderly behaviour. The court imposed strict conditions, including a ban on entering Chapel Lane and prohibitions on consuming alcohol in public or using legal highs. The case highlights concerns over public decency and respect for places of worship.
3. <https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/20/pair-accused-of-having-public-sex-in-church-appear-in-court-in-belfast/> - A man and woman were arrested at St Mary's Church on Chapel Lane in Belfast for allegedly engaging in sexual intercourse inside the church, visible to people outside. Both were charged with committing an act outraging public decency and disorderly behaviour. The incident prompted police intervention after shocked parishioners reported the behaviour. The case underscores concerns about public decency and the sanctity of places of worship.
4. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-caught-engaging-in-sex-act-in-side-room-of-a-chapel-has-been-jailed-5K7ST4LDTBAT7HL42HOOGUESOQ/> - A woman was sentenced to four months in prison after admitting to engaging in a sex act in a side room of St Mary's Chapel in Belfast. The incident, witnessed by parishioners, led to charges of outraging public decency. The court highlighted the significant upset caused to the church community and emphasized the need for respect towards places of worship. The case reflects ongoing concerns about public behaviour in sacred spaces.
5. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/man-and-woman-facing-trial-over-allegations-of-having-sex-within-grounds-of-belfast-city-centre-church/a1201032258.html> - A man and woman are set to stand trial over allegations of engaging in sexual activity within the grounds of a Belfast city centre church. The incident, which occurred on November 6, 2023, at St George's Parish Church on High Street, led to charges of committing a lewd, obscene, and disgusting act outraging public decency. The case has drawn attention to issues of public behaviour and respect for religious sites.
6. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-who-admitted-having-sex-inside-st-marys-church-in-chapel-lane-to-be-sentenced-next-month-U5TBTB5B2FFHHIRMA3KUORG2DI/> - A 32-year-old woman who admitted to having sexual intercourse inside St Mary's Church in Chapel Lane, Belfast, is scheduled to be sentenced next month. The incident, which occurred on May 18, 2024, led to charges of committing an act outraging public decency. The case has raised concerns about public behaviour in places of worship and the impact on the church community.
7. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/woman-who-had-sex-in-belfast-chapel-to-be-sentenced-next-month/a1893990643.html> - A 32-year-old woman who admitted to having sexual intercourse inside a Belfast city centre chapel is set to be sentenced next month. The incident, which took place on May 18, 2024, at St Mary's Chapel, led to charges of committing an act of a lewd, obscene, and disgusting nature outraging public decency. The case highlights ongoing concerns about public behaviour in sacred spaces and the need for respect towards places of worship.