# Teen on Trial for Illegal Abortion & Teacher Faces Sexual Misconduct Allegations in UK Courts



### Teenager on Trial for Illegal Abortion at Gloucester Crown Court

On May 14, 2024, 19-year-old Sophie Harvey stood trial at Gloucester Crown Court, accused of using an illegal drug to terminate her pregnancy at 28 weeks and five days. Prosecutors allege Harvey and her boyfriend, Elliot Benham, researched online for abortion methods and purchased the drugs illegally.

The court heard that Harvey gave birth in her bathroom, wrapped the baby in a towel, and disposed of it. English law permits abortions up to 24 weeks if conducted by a registered medical practitioner. Beyond this, abortions are only allowed under very specific circumstances, none of which applied to Harvey.

After their baby was born, BPAS had referred Harvey to her GP for urgent antenatal care, but the couple did not follow through. Instead, Benham allegedly purchased abortion pills for £309.44, collected on September 22, 2018. Harvey claims the baby was stillborn, contradicting the Crown's position that she took the pill to induce abortion.

Harvey faces charges of procuring poison and attempting to pervert the course of justice, while Benham is charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice. The trial is ongoing.

### Manchester Maths Teacher Faces Allegations of Sexual Misconduct with Students

Rebecca Joynes, a 30-year-old maths teacher, stood trial at Manchester Crown Court on May 14, 2024, for allegedly having sexual relationships with two pupils and conceiving a child with one of them. Joynes is accused of initiating a relationship with a 15-year-old boy, referred to as Boy A, and later engaging in a relationship with another 15-year-old, referred to as Boy B, after being dismissed from her job.

Joynes allegedly had a sexual relationship with Boy B once he turned 16, claiming they became intimate after she was sacked from her job in July 2022. She denies having sexual relations with Boy A, despite evidence suggesting otherwise.

Prosecutors claim Joynes used Snapchat to communicate with the pupils and even provided her mobile number in a classroom setting. She maintains that her daughter’s pink knitted baby bonnet, often seen with her in court, is not meant to influence the jury but is a personal item.

Joynes faces six counts of sexual activity with a child and two counts of sexual activity while in a position of trust. The trial continues.