

Girl lied about rape

By J. Kenneth Evans

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A 17-year-old Allegheny Township girl who cried rape last week has admitted that she lied.

She'll be charged with making false reports to law enforcement officials, township police Chief Don Hess said yesterday. He said the girl was undergoing psychiatric evaluation, but he would not say where.

Hess said the girl confessed to the lie after police interviewed her a second time. He said she offered no reason for the fabrication.

Police had been skeptical from the outset. The incident she described was similar to two other Alle-Kiski area rape accounts over the past three months — in each, there were two assailants in a van — but there were also discrepancies. "There were differences in this latest rape, like the race of the men involved," Hess said. "That was a glaring difference."

The men in the first two incidents were said to be white, while in the third they were described as light-skinned black men.

The girl's mother and grandmother were outraged when the rape was reported. The family had posted fliers throughout the area with composite drawings based on

her description of her assailants. Yesterday, neither woman was available for comment.

"I think the family was as shocked as we were when it came out," Hess said.

Darlene Schantz, a neighbor in the Sandalwood Apartments, where the girl and her mother live, said: "I know the family felt really bad. She shouldn't have done that."

The girl said she was abducted at 6:50 a.m. Sept. 10 from the entrance to the Sandalwood Apartments. She said a van driver had stopped, asked for directions, and as she spoke to him another man in the van grabbed her and forced her inside. She said she was held in the van for 12 hours and raped, then dropped off shortly before 7 p.m. at an Allegheny Township cemetery.

She said one of the pair had a knife.

Hess said the van did stop for directions, but that the girl had gotten in voluntarily. "She got in the van to show them how to get where they were going," the chief said. "But no one touched her, and there was no intimate contact."

"The fact that this particular case has been solved and is no longer active in no way reflects on the other two reported incidents of July 14 or Aug. 9," Hess said. He said there was no indication that either one was fabricated, and they are still under investigation.

In the July 14 case, another 17-year-old was abducted by two men in a van while she was hitchhiking in New Kensington, police said. The passenger raped her while the driver kept driving, and she was dropped off in Allegheny Township.

The Aug. 10 case occurred when an 18-year-old woman was forced into a van while she was walking to her car at night in Hyde Park Plaza. She told officers that the van was driven to the rear of the shopping center, where she was raped. Her abductors then returned to the lot and put her out.