

UNDERSTANDING JUSTICE FACT SHEET

Provided by COPE Ministries and authored by Minister Angela Smith

The purpose of this fact sheet, which is written in conversational format to illustrate the points being made from varying perspectives, is to explain #MeToo and similar movements in terms of justice. Being found "not guilty" is not the equivalent of being found "innocent" of the charges. For the sake of helping all victims, "You" are the accused.

CONVERSATION:

You: I have been accused of rape. I did not do it.

Society: Who has accused you? What is the evidence? Has law enforcement been notified?

Victim: I accuse you. And, there is no physical evidence because you are my landlord and have the key to my apartment. There is no video surveillance of your comings and goings. You entered my home without my consent and raped me at gun point. You wore a condom. You then forced me to take a shower under threat of death. You left and wrote a note saying you'd be back again tomorrow to fix the plumbing. I called the police. I reported all of it. They said your note presented reasonable doubt along with your role as landlord regarding whether or not you had consent to enter my apartment since you were supposedly there to fix the plumbing. They could not find the gun you used in your possession. The condom appears to be disposed of and disappeared too and not in the trash. There were many condoms found disposed when the dumpsters were searched. But, as a result identifying it as belonging to the landlord and used on me is difficult because the evidence has been destroyed if it even still exists. I did go to the hospital for a rape kit. There was no evidence other than bruising and tearing which is noted as possible to have occurred during consensual intercourse. So, as a result, I need a witness to testify who heard my cries for help. My next door neighbor told me she heard it, but, is afraid to testify because she doesn't want to be evicted. I'm looking for a new apartment right now and staying with a friend in the meantime.

Society: So, the police won't prosecute? They think there's room for reasonable doubt in victim's case? So, You just get away with it?

You: I didn't rape anyone. There's no evidence. Victim is committing libel per se.

Society: Are You going to sue victim for libel per se?

You: No, clearly the victim is mentally unstable and delusional. I'm just going to forgive it.

Victim: I'm going to sue You you motherfucker and I believe I can win.

You: See what I mean? Victim's crazy. What monetary loss can Victim prove? How much is a rape kit and didn't the police cover it? Cost of moving? Nobody asked you to and I can sue for breaching the lease because victim still has 6 months on that agreement.

Society: That is so fucked up! The Victim can't get any justice! I'm signing up for some serious self-defense. I might even buy a gun and learn how to use it. The Victim has the right to share the truth and be heard. And, as a potential victim of You myself, I'm content with the First Amendment protecting everyone's right to share their own honest beliefs and opinions about matters of controversy.

Victim: Thank you and don't rent from that asshole!

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<https://www.cope.church>

and

<https://www.heal-online.org>