Man gets jail, caning for molesting girlfriend's daughter

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KUCHING: A jobless man was sentenced by the Sessions Court here yesterday to eight-year jail and five strokes of the cane for sexually assaulting his girlfriend's nine-year-old daughter.

Judge Shafiza Abdul Razak Tready convicted the accused, 32, on his own guilty plea to a charge under Section 14(a) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, and ordered the sentence to take effect from the date of the accused's remand on Oct 5 this year.

He was also ordered to undergo rehabilitation counselling throughout his period of detention, as well as placed under police supervision for two years upon his release from prison.

According to the charge, the accused physically sexually assaulted the victim by touching her genital area for sexual purposes at his house in Lundu on the night of Sept 17 this year.

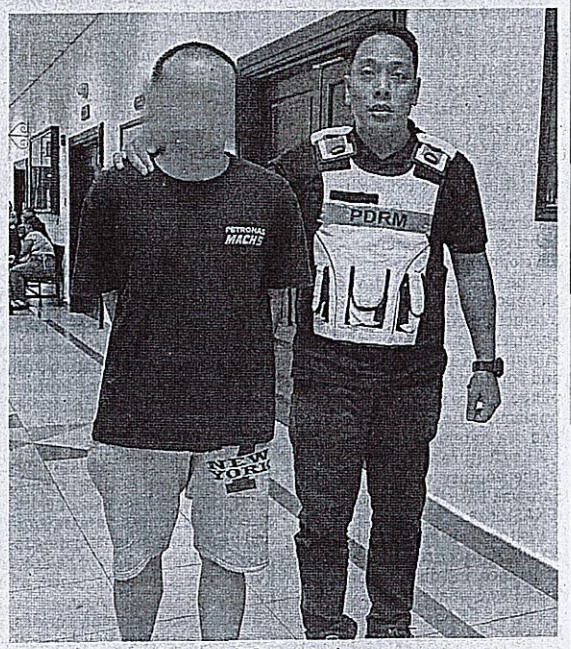
The facts of the case revealed that the complainant, a doctor at Lundu Hospital, interviewed the victim on Sept 19 following a police report lodged by the victim's mother concerning an incident involving her boyfriend.

In the report, the 34-year-old woman stated that the accused, who was drunk at the time, had scolded her before throwing bags containing her clothes out of the house.

The accused then allegedly slapped her face and kicked her right shoulder before ordering the woman and her daughter to leave the house.

The woman also stated that the accused had hit her daughter's right forehead a day before the police report was lodged.

Following this, the doctor interviewed the nine-year-old victim, who disclosed that her mother's boyfriend had been touching her genital area since he began living with them about seven months earlier.



A policeman escorts the accused after sentencing.

The victim also said the most recent incident occurred two days before they were ordered to leave the house.

Police investigations revealed that the victim's mother and the accused had been in a relationship for about a year, and the woman was four months' pregnant with his child at the time of the incident.

The victim is the woman's biological daughter from a previous marriage.

Further investigations found that the victim was sleeping in a bedroom with her mother and the accused on Sept 17 when the accused put his hand inside her trousers before touching her genital area.

Meanwhile, the accused is also expected to face charges at the Lundu Magistrates' Court in connection with the alleged assault on the woman and her daughter.

Prosecuting was deputy public prosecutor Chuah Kai Sheng, while the accused was unrepresented by counsel.