

# Lorry driver who impregnated minor gets 10-year jail, caning

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**KUCHING:** The Sessions Court here sentenced a 28-year-old lorry driver here to 10 years in prison and six strokes of the cane for statutory rape.

Judge Noorhisham Mohd Jaafar convicted the man on his guilty plea to a charge under Section 376(1) of the Penal Code for the statutory rape of a 15-year-old girl, which carries a maximum 20-year jail term and caning upon conviction.

The offence took place at a budget hotel in Batu Kawa last November.

According to the facts of the case, the victim went to a clinic in Petra Jaya this month for a medical check-up after experiencing discomfort in her abdomen.

The examination revealed that she was five months' pregnant.

It was further revealed that the girl had earlier informed medical personnel that she had sexual intercourse with a man at the hotel during the material time.

She was subsequently advised to lodge a police report, which led to the man's arrest.

Investigations found that the two became acquainted last July, and that the man had persuaded the girl to engage in sexual intercourse at the same hotel in the middle of that month.

The victim eventually agreed and the pair subsequently engaged in sexual intercourse almost every week without protection.

In September, the victim took a pregnancy test, which indicated that she was not pregnant.

They last engaged in sexual intercourse in November and



The man (centre) being escorted out from the courtroom after the sentencing.

the following month, the girl ceased contact with the man and changed her phone number.

In January, she discovered that she was pregnant after taking a pregnancy test.

However, she only sought treatment at a clinic in Petra Jaya this month after experiencing discomfort in her abdomen.

In mitigation, the

unrepresented man pleaded for leniency, citing his responsibility to support his elderly parents and younger siblings.

However, deputy public prosecutor Chuah Kai Sheng urged the court to impose a deterrent sentence, stressing that girls below the age of 16 are deemed by law incapable of consenting to sexual activity.

He also cited Health Ministry

data showing that 21,114 pregnancies among unmarried teenagers aged 19 and below were recorded between 2019 and 2024.

The court also ordered the man to undergo counselling during his imprisonment and for him to be placed under three years of police supervision upon release, pursuant to the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017.