

# Fife Reporter's Post

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UNDERCOVER BEAST: DEPRAVED FIFE MAN WHO SEXUALLY ASSAULTED 80-YEAR-OLD DEMENTIA SUFFERER WALKS FREE

A “depraved” pervert, who preyed upon and sexually assaulted an 80-year-old woman suffering from dementia, has avoided a jail sentence.

Scumbag James Beveridge, 70, played the part of a Good Samaritan by taking the woman back home after she had wandered off in the local area.

However, the long-time friend of the family then exploited the woman’s vulnerability by sexually assaulting her in her living room.

He was unaware that the woman’s daughter had recently installed cameras to keep on an eye on her mum.

She was watching in horror as Beveridge pulled down his trousers, kissed and groped her mum.

She called the house and told Beveridge she was viewing him on the camera. His sleazy sexual comments to the victim were also captured.

Beveridge, previously of Netherton Gardens, Kelty and now of Station Road, Thornton, appeared in the dock at Dunfermline Sheriff Court for sentencing.

As well as avoiding prison he also escaped unpaid work, a tag or any other form of punishment other than some harsh words from the sheriff.

His main concern after sentencing was trying to sneak out of court without having his photo taken and he emerged out of a back door in disguise. Unfortunately for him he had been pictured leaving the court at his last hearing.

He previously admitted that on 28th January in Kelty he sexually assaulted a woman, aged 80, by repeatedly touching her on the body, kissing her on the mouth, seizing her breast and repeatedly making sexual remarks towards her.

The court was told the woman suffers from vascular dementia and is looked after in her home by family members.

The condition affects her memory and she can put herself in vulnerable situations by going out of her home when alone.

Just before Christmas, the woman’s daughter had installed a doorbell camera and one in the living room so she could monitor her mum’s movements.

The woman had gone out of her home and was taken back there by Beveridge, who was someone known by the family for many years.

The daughter saw the doorbell video showing her mum being taken back into the house. She then watched the living room camera, as Beveridge pulled his trousers down to thigh level and kissed the victim.

He then squeezed her breast and pulled up her top.

When the daughter phoned her mum's home, Beveridge answered it. She told him there was a camera in the room and she was watching what was going on.

She then told him to leave the house and never return.

Police were contacted and audio from the cameras was checked which revealed Beveridge making a series of sexual remarks to the woman including, "Thinking about me and you, we'd never be out of the bedroom."

He also told the woman to "put your hands down there".

She asked, "Do I have to?"

Beveridge said, "3-2-1, go."

After the phone call from the daughter, Beveridge is heard saying, "For f\*\*\* sake".

Defence solicitor Shona Westwood said that her client was "very remorseful".

Sheriff Susan Duff interrupted to say, "He's remorseful that the woman's daughter installed a camera in her mother's home and he was caught. That's what he's remorseful about."

The solicitor then said that first offender Beveridge was unaware about the extent of the woman's condition and her ability to consent.

An angry Sheriff Duff said, "That's utter nonsense. This is a woman who had gone out wandering. He was trusted by her family and his conduct was depraved."

The solicitor said her client's marriage was now at an end and he was living in temporary accommodation.

Sheriff Duff told Beveridge, "This was a disgusting and depraved sexual assault on an 80-year-old woman.

"You were caught because her daughter installed a camera because she was concerned about her wandering."

She imposed a community payback order with three years of supervision and participation in a programme for sex offenders. Beveridge was also put on the sex offenders register.

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