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RAPE SUSPECT RELEASED AFTER VICTIM RECANTS

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A 13-year-old Warren girl who said three men raped her last week recanted her story against one of the men on Tuesday.

After spending nine days in jail and facing the possibility of many years behind bars, Duraid Fathi, 33, walked out of District Judge Dawnn Gruenburg's 37th District Court a free man.

Fathi's attorney, Scott Weinberg, said afterward that the Madison Heights resident and his family were relieved and elated.

"It was very scary for him. But justice was done," Weinberg said. "I think what we had was a scared kid who wanted not to get in trouble with her parents, so she lied."

Biagio Raona, 19, and Guy Krowl, 18, face three counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. The Madison Heights residents waived their preliminary examination Tuesday. Fathi had faced one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The two defendants will remain in jail unless they can each post the \$5-million cash bonds set by 37th District Chief Judge Walter Jakubowski after their April 16 arrests.

The girl's story had shocked authorities, who wanted severe punishment for the rape of a child.

The girl told police that two of the men, who were acquaintances of her older sister, came to her family's Warren home about 4 a.m. on April 16. She said they threatened to kill her family if she didn't go with them to a hotel.

Suspicious hotel employees called police, who stopped the two men and the girl driving away about 5:30 a.m. She then told police she had been raped.

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{KEYWORDS} BIAGIO RAONA; GUY KROWL; DUR Aid FATHI; RAPE; JUVENILE

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