

Jailed for causing minor to have sex

In the first case of its kind, a former information technology specialist was jailed for six months on March 11 after causing a minor to have sex with an 18-year-old part-time model.

The 41-year-old, who cannot be named, took photographs of the poses and sexual acts between the

minor, then 15, and the teenage model whom he had hired for a "couples shoot" at Conrad Centennial Hotel in late 2012.

At some point, the Singapore permanent resident from India put the camera on "auto" mode.

He then took off his clothes, joined

the pair on the bed and had sex with the girl.

The offences came to light on Jan 8 last year, when the son of the boy's guardian saw photographs of the threesome on the Internet.

The minor filed a police report the following day.



Usually it was the mother who went over to the US, even during summer holidays. But she was always fretting about her daughter, flying over once every few months.

— A female tenant staying at Ouyang Xiangyu's parents' home

Man, 27, jailed four years for sex with minor and for getting young cousin to join in

He threatens girl, 14, with video upload

Reports by SHAFFIQ ALKHATIB
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He filmed himself having sex with an underage girl and later threatened to upload the footage on the Internet if she did not submit to his lust again.

The terrified girl, who was only 14 years old at the time, gave in and had sex with the 25-year-old on Nov 7, 2013.

But he took his perversions a step further by asking his underage cousin, who was also 14, to film them.

Then he told the boy to have sexual intercourse with the girl while he watched.

The man, who cannot be named to protect the victim's identity, was jailed for four years yesterday.

Now 27, he pleaded guilty to three counts of sexually penetrating a minor and one count of causing his underage cousin to have sexual intercourse with the unwilling girl.

Three other counts of causing the boy to have sex with the girl and seven counts each of sexually penetrating her and criminal intimidation were taken into consideration.

This is the second case of this nature to appear before the courts this year. (See report, above.)

The jobless man got to know the girl at a traditional dance club in April 2012.

Four months later, with her mother's consent, he stayed at her home for a



ST FILE PHOTO

few months, sleeping in the living room with her younger brother.

They kept in touch after he moved out and she would tell him about her family problems.

They began a sexual relationship that year and he filmed her performing sexual acts on him.

In April 2013, she went to look for him in Jurong and found him at a staircase landing of a block of flats. They then had unprotected sexual intercourse with her consent.

AWARE OF AGE

Deputy Public Prosecutor (DPP) Rachel Ng said he was aware that she was below 16 years old.

On Nov 7, he asked her to meet him at Jurong East MRT Station so that they could talk about her family problems.

He took her to his cousin's flat and introduced her to the boy.

On the pretext of talking in private, the man took her into a bedroom. He then called his cousin over, whispered something into his ear and handed over his mobile phone.

The girl moved away when he tried to remove her clothes. He told her not to struggle or he would upload her sex videos on the Internet.

She then realised the boy, whose case is still pending, was filming them with the mobile phone.

The man had unprotected sexual intercourse with the girl without her consent before asking his cousin to join in.

DPP Ng said: "The victim was scared and said that she did not want to, but (the man) shouted at her and raised his hand as if he was about to slap her."



(The girl) has been tearful, withdrawn and has been having insomnia, interrupted sleep, nightmares, loss of appetite and difficulty concentrating on her studies.

— Deputy Public Prosecutor Rachel Ng, quoting a report by Dr Bernardine Woo, a senior consultant at the Child Guidance Clinic

She gave in out of fear and later left the flat.

Three days later, the accused took her to the flat again, where he forced her to perform oral sex on him in a bedroom.

About five minutes later, he called the cousin to come in. But the boy told him that his mother was at the void deck. The man quickly got dressed and took her girl to the living room.

The girl made a police report about her ordeal on Feb 25 last year.

Quoting a report by Dr Bernardine Woo, a senior consultant at the Child Guidance Clinic, DPP Ng said: "(The girl) has been tearful, withdrawn and has been having insomnia, interrupted sleep, nightmares, loss of appetite and difficulty concentrating on her studies."

"She was also afraid of being alone."

Dr Padma Krishnamoorthy from KK Women's and Children's Hospital also produced a report that the girl was found to have gardnerella, a condition that produces an unpleasant vaginal discharge. It is not a sexually transmitted disease, but can be caused by increased sexual activity.

In mitigation, the man, who did not have a lawyer, said he was remorseful and asked District Judge Jasvender Kaur to give him a chance to turn over a new leaf.

For each count of sexually penetrating a minor, he could have been jailed up to 10 years and fined.

Singaporean A*Star scholar arrested for poisoning US university classmates

Reports by DAVID SUN and ELIZABETH LAW
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An A*Star scholar was arrested and charged in California, US, with allegedly poisoning herself and her classmates.

Ouyang Xiangyu, 26, a second-year student at Stanford's School of Medicine, had put paraformaldehyde (PFA) in her drinking water and in her classmates' water bottles.

PFA, commonly used in biology, is lethal if ingested in sizeable amounts.

Ouyang was described as an awkward and quiet girl with no friends and had once asked a classmate what it was like to have a boyfriend.

The Singaporean has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

She is no longer a student at Stanford after the university issued a Stay Away Letter to her on Nov 11. This was after her classmates had found PFA in their water bottles on multiple instances from September to November last year.

Two of the students had drunk the poisoned water and complained of a burning sensation in their mouths and throats.

Ouyang claimed that she had added PFA and other unknown chemicals to her own water bottle without having an adverse reaction.

She had also allegedly destroyed some of the projects that the other cancer biology students were working on.

CONFRONTED

When confronted by classmates, she claimed to be "not conscious" of the act at the time.

Court papers quoted Ouyang as saying: "I am truly sorry for what had happened but I really didn't mean to harm people. It was me crying out for help, and I didn't know."

It was also revealed that Ouyang had been suffering from severe insomnia, dizziness, depression and a "disconnection from reality".

According to Stanford University spokesman Lisa Lapin, investigations began in mid-November.

"This was a sad, heartbreaking situation and no one could speculate as to why," she said.

"The university has been providing support to the group impacted. They are a strong team and from the outset requested privacy to move on."

Ouyang completed her A levels in Temasek Junior College in 2009 and went on to graduate with a degree in bio-

She's awkward and has no friends



CHARGED: Ouyang Xiangyu (right) allegedly poisoned her classmates at Stanford University (above).
PHOTO: ST FILE COURT DOCUMENTS



chemistry from Imperial College in London. She completed her degree under the A*Star National Science Scholarship.

Property records show that the Clementi address listed in the court papers belong to the Ouyangs.

When The New Paper visited the address, a woman in her 20s came to the door. The woman, who declined to be named, identified herself as a tenant and said that Mr Ouyang had gone out.

Mrs Ouyang had flown to the US about two weeks ago to be with her daughter, she said.

Ouyang is an only child. The tenant

said that in more than a year of living there, she had never met Ouyang, but had spoken to her online a few times.

"Usually it was the mother who went over to the US, even during summer holidays. But she was always fretting about her daughter, flying over once every few months," the woman said, adding that the Ouyangs are researchers.

"Sometimes Mrs Ouyang would suddenly take off, and even her husband wouldn't know where she went until she called him from the US.

"They are really nice people, but I've heard the mother say many times that her daughter was very stressed.

"She told her daughter to take up more exercise and make more friends, but I suppose it didn't help."

An A*Star spokesman said it was aware of the incident and was deeply concerned.

No action will be taken until the proceedings have been concluded.

Ouyang has been charged with four counts of "poisoning any food, drink or medicine".

Under the California Penal Code, the charge carries a jail term of two to five years, with an additional term of three years if the substance may cause death when ingested.

According to Vice News, Ouyang, who is out on US\$50,000 (S\$68,000) bail, is awaiting further psychiatric evaluation and is expected to be back in court again next month.

JUST A FEW DROPS CAN BE LETHAL

Paraformaldehyde (PFA) can cause skin irritation — and also be lethal when ingested. Assistant Professor Guillaume Thibault from Nanyang Technological University's School of Biological Sciences and the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, said PFA is a commonly used substance in biology.

"You need gloves and a lab coat to handle it properly and it should not be ingested," he said.

"Ingesting just a few drops can be lethal."

He said PFA is used to take samples from cell tissue and can react with internal organs.

"It is poisonous and is also a carcinogen. It is definitely not meant for consumption," he said.

He also said that the tampering or damaging of projects can result in the loss of months of work.

"In some cases, the entire research project is lost," he said.