

Appendix A: Sexual Assault Vignette

Please imagine that you have been selected to be a juror in an alleged sexual assault trial. Presented below is a copy of the police report filed by the complainant on the night in question. Please read this information carefully and take a few moments to fully picture the scene in your mind. When you are ready, please answer the questions that follow.

On Sunday December 13, 2010, at approximately 12pm, the following complaint was filed with the York Region Police by Susan Ellen Keenan. Susan Keenan is described as a 20 year old female, approximately 5'5" tall. She has a [thin/overweight] build, brown hair and brown eyes. She is a university student and lives in Markham with her older sister.

At approximately 7:30pm on the evening of December 12, 2010, Susan Keenan went to dinner at a restaurant in Toronto's downtown core with her boyfriend Michael Paulson. Both parties had dinner and Susan had a couple alcoholic drinks, she reported feeling "tipsy". The couple left the restaurant around midnight and went to Michael's house located in downtown Toronto. The couple entered Michael's house, watched a movie, and began to kiss passionately. Susan made it very clear that she did not want to have sex that night. Michael was very disappointed and told her that if she did not want to have sex then she could leave. Susan informed him that the GO Bus service to Markham had stopped running at this hour. After this exchange, Michael continued to pressure Susan for the next hour. Eventually Susan stopped protesting and had sexual intercourse with Michael. The next morning, Susan collected her things and returned to her home in Markham once GO service had resumed. At that point, her sister brought her to the District 5 station on McCowan road to report the incident.

After giving her statement, Susan Keenan provided detectives with the contact information for Michael Paulson and the Toronto Police Services were contacted. Mr. Paulson was brought in for questioning and, after reviewing the evidence, a charge of sexual assault was filed against him.