

Michelle Sparrow:

You might have to register as a sexual offender. Every time you move, you have to register with the sheriff's office and you have three days or you could get charged with another felony of not registering, so on the more serious sexual assaults you have to register, so that's a long-term effect and all sexual assaults are serious obviously, but some of them have that and have prison time, and some it might be probation. It just depends. There's a variety of assault charges stemming from simple assault all the way up to rape cases and depending on what the conviction is, it could be anywhere from a community punishment, probation, to jail time.

With any sexual assault type case, there are problems if you work in an area where the opposite sex is, which we all do, and there're considerations when someone has that record and they have that conviction on their record. People are weary about having them in their homes or having them in their businesses or spending time with them. I mean, it's endless, the judgment that you get in these convictions, so depending on how serious it is too, obviously.

When the media gets ahold of this case, just the accusation itself ends up costing you perhaps jobs and things. And people may judge because even an accusation can be enough for someone to say, "Oh yeah, he did it." Innocent until proven guilty. A lot of people don't see it that way, and you're accused, your picture is in the paper, so you did it. So that's unfortunate, but it happens. And in those types of cases, you try to mitigate the damage. You try to keep it out of the news if you can. If you're facing any criminal offense, and especially one like this, I mean, you need an attorney that is seasoned, that has been through this, that knows about these cases, that tries them, that defends them. You need an attorney to look at it. It's an objective legal perspective that you can't get unless you hire an attorney.