

Utah court clears girl, 13, of sex abuse

by UPI

SALT LAKE CITY -- The Utah Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that finding a 13-year-old girl and her 12-year-old boyfriend guilty of sexually abusing each other is "absurd." The high court dismissed the charge against the girl, identified in court documents only as Z.C. of Ogden, The Salt Lake Tribune reported. The boy had not appealed the finding of delinquency. The girl was 13 when she became pregnant in October 2003. State authorities filed sexual abuses charges against her and the boy in July 2004. Justice Jill Parrish, in the court's opinion, said the Legislature may have been trying to discourage reckless behavior by teenagers. But she said legislators could not have intended to treat both parties to a consensual sex act as simultaneously victims and perpetrators. Parrish said the ruling applies only in cases where no victim can be identified and not to those where an adult has sex with a minor.

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