

Web fraudster lied about dead babies

A woman who copied photos of babies from other people's Instagram accounts, posted them as her own and claimed they were sick or dead to make money has been spared prison despite having been previously jailed for similar offences.

Kati Ringer, 21, was banned from social media for two years after she targeted mothers at random and became abusive when challenged online.

Norwich magistrates' court was told yesterday that Ringer had found photographs of two women's babies online. Jane Walker, for the prosecution, said: "The defendant copied these images and reposted them on her Instagram saying they were her child, the child had died and trying to get money."

When challenged by the first victim, Ringer "became threatening towards her and made threats to rape and harm the child". She sent the mother a "laughing face" emoji on Instagram, then a further message saying: "I've already posted pictures saying she's dead, I've got £600 so far."

She accused the victim of being "a shit mother" and said that her child "should have been drowned at birth". She also revealed that she knew the name of the victim's partner and claimed that the police "would not touch her".

Ringer used images of the second victim's premature daughter. "The victim challenged the suspect and asked she stop using the images," Ms Walker

said. "It was then that she said she would find out where the victim lived and kidnap and rape her daughter."

West Midlands police and Leicestershire police traced Ringer's IP address to a computer at her mother's house in Norwich. Ringer, of Soleme Road, Norwich, admitted at an earlier hearing two malicious communications offences relating to March and April this year. She was jailed for three years in 2015 for 23 similar offences.

This time she was sentenced to a two-year criminal behaviour order that



Kati Ringer, 21, sent two mothers rape and death threats

bans her from using any social media, passing any other person's photograph off as her own or asking any third party for a donation unless as a legitimate volunteer for a registered charity.

She was also handed a jail term of 30 weeks, suspended for two years, ordered to pay £225 costs and given a community order with a 30-day activity requirement.

Ian Fisher, in mitigation, said that Ringer had pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity and events in her life had contributed to her "lacking any ability to empathise".