

NEIGHBOURS BLAST 'SICKENING' SENTENCE IN ASSAULT CASE

MAN WHO LEFT COMMON-LAW PARTNER WITH LIFE-ALTERING INJURIES GETS TWO YEARS LESS A DAY

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Residents in a Georgetown neighbourhood where a woman was brutally beaten over several months - to the point where her face has been permanently disfigured - are outraged at the sentence handed down to the man responsible for the heinous crimes.

Anand Dindyal, 25, of Georgetown, will be out of jail in less than two years after Superior Court Justice Michael Gibson sentenced him to two years less a day for the multiple attacks on his common-law partner and one assault on her five-year-old son.

Dindyal was convicted of six counts of assault, two counts of assault with a weapon, one count of aggravated assault, and one count of mischief in relation to his common-law partner, and also of one count of assault in relation to her young son, now 7.

"It's sickening that he's going to be out (of jail) soon and she's stuck with a lifetime of pain and agony," said Suneel Kashyap, who

lives in the area of Main Street South and Maple Avenue, where many of the incidents occurred.

Clara Domenica, who also lives in the neighbourhood, said she worries for the young boy while also being bewildered at the sentence.

"That poor child is going to need a lot of help and support and so is his mom," she said. "How can two years (less a day) be justified? Where's the justice?"

Crown prosecutor Michael Godinho wanted the judge to impose a jail sentence of more than five years, while defence lawyer Sweta Tejpal wanted a suspended sentence.

The judge sent Dindyal to jail, but for "two years less a day," meaning the convicted man doesn't go to a federal prison.

The judge said he needed to balance the prospects of rehabilitation along with deterring future incidents.

"The evidence indicates that Mr. Dindyal lacked maturity and insight into how to appropriately be in an intimate domestic relationship with another per-

son," the judge said. "A penitentiary sentence is unlikely to make him a better person, or to foster the development of such insight. Specific deterrence is a very important consideration here."

In addition to cuts, bruises, scrapes, soreness and a fracture that needs major reconstructive surgery, a Georgetown woman's face has been "permanently disfigured," the judge said.

The trauma endured over the 15-month period involved repeated attacks that included Dindyal using a coffee mug and breakfast plate as weapons, and another incident in which "he picked her up and threw her face-first into the couch," Gibson said in his ruling.

As a result of the assaults, the woman has suffered "permanent and life-altering injuries," the judge said, adding the attacks took place between June 2016 and September 2017.

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