

Son says victim is afraid to be alone

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victim for four to five hours," said Baldwin. "This home invasion did not end until the police forced entry into the home." She said the 86-year-old legally blind victim "continues to suffer trauma as result of these crimes."

In a victim impact statement, the woman's son said since the incident his mother "was very nervous when in the home alone— her fear reached the point where she couldn't stay in her daughter's home in Georgetown" so she moved in with him in Toronto.

"The victim was put in a choke-hold, pulled backward, kicked down some stairs and to the ground. A large knife was held to her throat as the offender straddled her. Her hand was cut as she struggled to get free and she sustained bruising. She was threatened with bodily harm," said Baldwin.

Baldwin said the Court of Appeal views home invasions as a "serious and increasingly prevalent crime in our society, normally warranting a lengthy penitentiary term." Based on the findings of a psychological assessment that was done on Hill, Baldwin said he is "at a high risk to reoffend both generally and violently."

"It is noteworthy that he had, just two days before these offences, been in treatment at Homewood Health Centre in Guelph. He discharged himself against medical advice from this protected setting and committed these horrific crimes," said Baldwin.

Baldwin said Hill admitted to police he broke into the house through a sliding window about 8:30 or 9 a.m. and grabbed food, money and had a shower. He took a knife from the kitchen and a broomstick. At about 11 a.m. the senior, who was home alone, heard a voice and found Hill at the patio door with the stick and knife in his hand. Hill repeatedly told the senior he wouldn't hurt her if she did what she was told. He refused to let her leave the house and ripped the phone out of the wall so she couldn't call for help.

Hill waved a knife at the woman and

kicked her dog, it was stated by Baldwin.

After about five hours the senior managed to call 911. Hill became angrier and barricaded the door with furniture to prevent the woman from leaving and police from getting in. As she tried to open the door to let the police in Baldwin stated Hill put the senior in a chokehold, pulled her back from the door and kicked her. He pushed her down some stairs and down onto her back. As she struggled to get away and let police in she cut her hand on the knife Hill was wielding.

Hill lay on top of the senior with a knife to her throat and told her not to go out or "she'd had it." Police forced their way into the home. There was a struggle with Hill in which an officer suffered a small cut to his hand, a sore wrist, knee and elbow. Hill told police he started barricading the house for protection, tried to unplug the phones and told the woman he wasn't going to let her leave. He said he moved her and she fell.

He admitted he had a knife to the woman's throat and fought with the officers.

Hill, who has four children with his estranged spouse, has a criminal

record including a suspended sentence and two years probation for assault on his spouse. He has admitted to longstanding substance abuse and was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder.

Assistant Crown Attorney Laurie Jago, was seeking a sentence in the eight year range, and requested the Court consider delaying Hill's eligibility for parole until he serves half his sentence. Baldwin chose to let the parole board decide his eligibility.

Hill's lawyer, Darrel Hotz, suggested a four-year sentence on top pre-trial custody.

Hill received eight-year concurrent sentences for the break and enter and commit robbery and forcible confinement convictions, and six months concurrent for the assault resist arrest conviction.

Following his sentencing Baldwin said to Hill, "I do hope you remain stable while you serve your sentence." Hill nodded in reply.

'I do hope you remain stable while you serve your sentence.'

Judge Lesley Baldwin



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