

Elderly Waterford Farmer Robbed During Dublin Trip

A man who took part in the violent robbery of an elderly Waterford farmer in Dublin city is to be sentenced at a later date.

Daniel Feeney was in the city on business when Paul Brazil (34) and two other men attacked him.

Brazil of Carnew Street, Stoneybatter, Dublin pleaded guilty to robbery at Railway Street in the city on May 15th, 2013. He also pleaded guilty to robbery at Smithfield, Dublin on October 15th, 2012.

Judge Patricia Ryan at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court adjourned sentencing until June 20th next for a medical report on Brazil to be produced for the court.

Garda Patrick Gallagher told Garnet Orange BL, prosecuting, that Mr Feeney was visiting the capital on business and was staying in a bed and breakfast on Gardiner Street in Dublin city centre.

The victim was walking back to his accommodation in the evening when the three men pushed up against a gate and one man told him: "give me the f*cking money".

They threw him to the ground and one man stood over him and punched him in the head.

Mr Feeney later told Gardaí: "I felt dizzy and I nearly blacked out".

The robbers took his travel pass, driver's licence and €200 in cash. The court heard that the attack has since affected his decision to travel to Dublin as well as his feeling of safety when going out.

Brazil's 45 previous convictions include robbery, theft, drug dealing and car theft.

Paul Carroll BL, defending, said his client's parents have both being treated for drug addiction problems and that Brazil was sent to St Joseph's Industrial School in Clonmel.

The court heard this has had a "most significant" impact on his life and that he attempted to run away from the school many times.

Dr Anjum Madani told the court that he has been treating Brazil with methadone for a long time now and believes he has the potential to improve his situation.

He said: "I am hopeful and optimistic that he has reached a point in his life where he will change".

The court also heard that Brazil was on bail for a theft offence when he robbed a solicitor in October, 2012.

Damien Conroy was walking home after a night out socialising and was “a bit worse for wear” when Brazil and another man threatened him and went through his pockets.

They held a picture of his wife up and told him they knew where he lived and they would come and get him and his wife if he reported the crime to Gardaí.

The men demanded to know Mr Conroy’s bank card PIN. Gardaí arrested them shortly after the bank’s card services alerted them to the fact that the card was being used in a nearby shop to repeatedly withdraw small amounts of cash.