# Derry man to appear in court over father’s remains found in fridge



A man in Derry is set to be arraigned at the Crown Court next month after the remains of his father were discovered in a shocking condition at their home. The body of 86-year-old Noel O'Sullivan was found wrapped in a duvet and plastic sheeting inside a refrigerator. John Garret O'Sullivan, 55, now faces charges related to preventing the lawful burial of his father, a retired orthodontist.

The disconcerting discovery was made on July 17 when police responded to reports of a disturbance at the residence on Culmore Road. Upon arrival, they found the remains in the living room, with Mr O'Sullivan’s head inside an open freezer and his body lying beside it. This unsettling scene has raised significant public interest and concern, not only due to the macabre circumstances surrounding the death but also because of the mental health implications associated with it. The court heard that John O'Sullivan claims he placed his father's body in the refrigerator to preserve it, asserting that he intended to uphold his father’s dignity. However, this rationale has been met with scepticism by authorities, who have expressed fears regarding his mental health and the potential for further disturbance. Bail was denied, and he remains in custody as the case progresses.

The O’Sullivan family is known locally, and Dr Noel O'Sullivan had a respected career as an orthodontist in Derry. Following the grim discovery, a funeral service is planned for Saturday, with Dr O’Sullivan’s Requiem Mass scheduled at St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn. This event is expected to be a poignant moment for the community, reflecting on the life of a man who significantly contributed to local healthcare.

Adding to the troubling nature of this case, the circumstances leading to the father’s death remain unclear, as a post-mortem examination failed to provide conclusive details. With the court proceedings underway and the accused retaining legal representation, the community watches closely, grappling with the complexities of grief intermingled with the horror of the situation. It is a harrowing chapter not just for the family involved, but for Derry as a whole, underlining the often hidden struggles surrounding mental health and family dynamics.

As the judicial process unfolds, questions linger about support systems for both the bereaved and those facing similar struggles. The case has ignited a broader conversation about how society addresses mental health issues, particularly within the familial context, as well as the legal and ethical ramifications of such deeply disturbing occurrences.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/derry-man-to-be-arraigned-after-fathers-body-found-in-fridge-wrapped-in-duvet/a1519419941.html), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cevwzv2wk7vo)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/22/son-kept-fathers-head-in-freezer-londonderry-court/), [[4]](https://www.rte.ie/news/courts/2024/0722/1461190-derry-court/), [[6]](https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2024/07/22/man-accused-of-keeping-dead-father-in-freezer-denied-bail/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/funeral-of-derry-orthodontist-noel-osullivan-whose-remains-were-found-partially-in-a-freezer-to-take-place-on-saturday-AQ5MGDA7KNCATIF662IKEDX5MQ/), [[6]](https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2024/07/22/man-accused-of-keeping-dead-father-in-freezer-denied-bail/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2024/07/22/man-accused-of-keeping-dead-father-in-freezer-denied-bail/), [[7]](https://www.thejournal.ie/man-keeps-fathers-body-in-freezer-derry-6443316-Jul2024/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/derry-man-to-be-arraigned-after-fathers-body-found-in-fridge-wrapped-in-duvet/a1519419941.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cevwzv2wk7vo> - John Garret O'Sullivan, 55, appeared in Londonderry Magistrates' Court charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his father, Noel O'Sullivan. He claimed to have placed his father's body in the refrigerator to preserve it and maintain his privacy and dignity. The body was found at their home on Culmore Road in Derry. A post-mortem examination was inconclusive, and the accused was remanded in custody, with bail opposed due to concerns about his mental health.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/22/son-kept-fathers-head-in-freezer-londonderry-court/> - John Garrett O'Sullivan, 55, from Londonderry, was charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his 86-year-old father, Noel O'Sullivan. The court heard that the pensioner's remains were found in the living room of the house on Culmore Road, wrapped in plastic sheeting and a duvet. His head was placed inside an open fridge freezer, while the rest of his body lay on the floor beside the open door of another freezer. The accused was remanded in custody, with concerns raised about his mental health.
4. <https://www.rte.ie/news/courts/2024/0722/1461190-derry-court/> - John Garrett O'Sullivan, 55, appeared before a judge in Derry Magistrates' Court charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his 86-year-old father, Noel O'Sullivan. The court heard that the pensioner's remains were found in the living room of the house on Culmore Road in Derry, wrapped in plastic sheeting and a duvet. His head was placed inside an open fridge freezer, while the rest of his body lay on the floor beside the open door of another freezer. The accused was remanded in custody, with concerns about his mental health.
5. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/funeral-of-derry-orthodontist-noel-osullivan-whose-remains-were-found-partially-in-a-freezer-to-take-place-on-saturday-AQ5MGDA7KNCATIF662IKEDX5MQ/> - The funeral of retired Derry orthodontist, Noel O’Sullivan (86), whose son has been charged with attempting to prevent his burial, is to take place on Saturday. Dr O’Sullivan was found dead at his Culmore Road home on July 17. His Requiem Mass will take place at the nearby St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, at 12 noon. Dr O’Sullivan's remains had been lying in his home for several days before they were discovered by PSNI officers last week.
6. <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2024/07/22/man-accused-of-keeping-dead-father-in-freezer-denied-bail/> - John Garrett O’Sullivan, 55, appeared before a judge in Derry Magistrates’ Court charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his 86-year-old father, Noel O’Sullivan. The court heard that the pensioner's remains were found in the living room of the house on Culmore Road in Derry, wrapped in plastic sheeting and a duvet. His head was placed inside an open fridge freezer, while the rest of his body lay on the floor beside the open door of another freezer. The accused was remanded in custody, with concerns about his mental health.
7. <https://www.thejournal.ie/man-keeps-fathers-body-in-freezer-derry-6443316-Jul2024/> - John Garrett O’Sullivan, 55, appeared before a judge in Derry Magistrates’ Court charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his 86-year-old father, Noel O’Sullivan. The court heard that the pensioner's remains were found in the living room of the house on Culmore Road in Derry, wrapped in plastic sheeting and a duvet. His head was placed inside an open fridge freezer, while the rest of his body lay on the floor beside the open door of another freezer. The accused was remanded in custody, with concerns about his mental health.