# Man Sentenced to 21 Years for Manslaughter of Wife in Norfolk Home



Rafal Winiarski, 42, was sentenced to 21 years in prison for the manslaughter of his wife, Malgorzata Lechanska, 37, at their home in Shipdham, Norfolk, on August 1, 2021. He attacked her with an axe and a knife, causing 17 wounds, including multiple skull fractures.

The incident occurred minutes after Ms. Lechanska returned from a shopping trip, while their seven-year-old daughter played outside. Neighbors alerted the police after hearing screams. Upon arrival, officers found Winiarski watching television, having changed out of his bloodied clothes, while his wife lay dead on the kitchen floor. Their daughter was unharmed and with a neighbor.

During the trial at Norwich Crown Court, it was revealed that Winiarski had been suffering from paranoid psychosis and delusions of jealousy. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The court also heard that he had made previous threats with a knife, installed covert cameras, and nailed shut the windows in the family home.

Judge Anthony Bate described the attack as a "wicked and brutal assault" and noted Winiarski’s significant risk to the public, especially future partners. Ms. Lechanska was a respected member of the housekeeping team at Center Parcs in Elveden, Suffolk. Her tragic death left a lasting impact on her community and family.