# Derry man to face court after father’s body found in freezer wrapped in duvet



A man is set to face arraignment at the Crown Court in Derry next month following the shocking discovery of his father’s body, which was found wrapped in a duvet and plastic sheeting inside a refrigerator at their home. John Garret O’Sullivan, 55, has been charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his father, Noel O’Sullivan, an 86-year-old retired orthodontist, whose remains were uncovered by police during a routine home visit.

The grotesque details surrounding the case depict an alarming scene. According to reports, Noel's 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. This discovery was made in their home on Culmore Road in Derry, raising significant questions about the circumstances leading to his death. In court, O’Sullivan claimed that he had stored his father’s body in the refrigerator to preserve it, suggesting a misguided attempt to maintain his father's dignity.

Despite the unusual nature of the situation, a post-mortem examination was reported as inconclusive regarding the cause of death. This aspect has added to the complexity of the case, as authorities grapple with the legal and moral implications of O’Sullivan’s actions. During a recent court appearance, Deputy District Judge Philip Mateer expressed serious concerns about O'Sullivan's mental health, highlighting the distressing psychological underpinnings that may have contributed to this tragic scenario. O'Sullivan, who possesses a PhD in electrical engineering, appeared via video link from police custody, underscoring the severity of his predicament.

As the case unfolds, the community is left grappling with the implications of such a disturbing discovery. The funeral for Noel O’Sullivan is scheduled to take place soon, amidst heightened public interest and scrutiny regarding both the man's life and the circumstances surrounding his death. Support for the family has emerged from the local community, illustrating a collective mourning for the pensioner, whose life was marked by professional achievement.

This case illuminates deeper societal issues concerning mental health and the responsibilities of family members, particularly in the wake of serious illness or death. The court will continue to monitor O'Sullivan’s mental state as proceedings move forward, with the next hearing scheduled for mid-August. The judicial process will not only have to address the legal charges against him but also the broader question of care and compassion within familial relationships in times of crisis.

## 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.rte.ie/news/courts/2024/0722/1461190-derry-court/), [[4]](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/), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/22/son-kept-fathers-head-in-freezer-londonderry-court/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.thejournal.ie/man-keeps-fathers-body-in-freezer-derry-6443316-Jul2024/), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/police-derry-brussels-buncrana-b1172120.html)

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## 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. The court heard that Noel's body was found at his home 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. O'Sullivan claimed he placed his father's body in the refrigerator to preserve it and maintain his privacy and dignity. A post-mortem examination was inconclusive, and O'Sullivan was remanded in custody, with concerns raised about his mental health. He is due to appear in court again on August 15. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cevwzv2wk7vo?utm_source=openai))
3. <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 father, 86-year-old 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. Deputy district judge Philip Mateer remanded John O'Sullivan in custody, expressing concerns about his mental health. The accused, who is unemployed but has a PhD in electrical engineering, appeared via video-link from a police custody suite. ([rte.ie](https://www.rte.ie/news/courts/2024/0722/1461190-derry-court/?utm_source=openai))
4. <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 Noel O'Sullivan, a Derry orthodontist whose remains were found partially in a freezer, is scheduled to take place on Saturday. His son, John Garrett O'Sullivan (55), appeared before Derry Magistrates' Court earlier this week, charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his father. The court heard the pensioner's remains were found in the living room of his home, wrapped in plastic sheeting and a duvet. His head had been placed inside an open fridge freezer, while the rest of his body lay on the floor beside the open door of another freezer. ([irishnews.com](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/?utm_source=openai))
5. <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 remanded in custody after being charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his father, 86-year-old Noel O'Sullivan. Londonderry magistrates' 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. Deputy district judge Philip Mateer expressed concerns about O'Sullivan's mental health and remanded him in custody. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/22/son-kept-fathers-head-in-freezer-londonderry-court/?utm_source=openai))
6. <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 father, 86-year-old 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. Deputy district judge Philip Mateer remanded John O'Sullivan in custody, expressing concerns about his mental health. ([thejournal.ie](https://www.thejournal.ie/man-keeps-fathers-body-in-freezer-derry-6443316-Jul2024/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/police-derry-brussels-buncrana-b1172120.html> - John Garrett O'Sullivan, 55, appeared before a judge in Londonderry Magistrates' Court charged with attempting to prevent the lawful burial of his father, 86-year-old 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. Deputy district judge Philip Mateer remanded John O'Sullivan in custody, expressing concerns about his mental health. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/police-derry-brussels-buncrana-b1172120.html?utm_source=openai))