

Dad sent offensive texts to ex in labour UPSET: Man (33) discovered affair

By Eimear Cotter

A FATHER-of-one, who sent a string of offensive text messages to his ex-partner while she was a patient in a maternity hospital, was upset as he had discovered that she had been having an affair, a court heard.

Jonathan Dempsey (33) was in a relationship with the woman for over a decade, and the couple had two children.

However, the relationship had its problems and ended badly, his lawyer told the court.

Dempsey later discovered that one of the children, who he had raised as his own, was not his biological child.

The defendant admitted that sending his ex-partner a string of offensive texts was completely unacceptable, and apologised for his behaviour.

A judge bound Dempsey to the peace for 18 months and told him that he was not to have any contact with his ex-partner.

The defendant, of Cedar Brooke Avenue, Cherry Orchard, admitted before Dun Laoghaire District Court to harassment.

Concern

It took place at the woman's former home in Dundrum and at Holles Street Maternity Hospital on numerous dates between June 1 and July 9, 2008 while she was pregnant and giving birth to her third child.

Sergeant Peadar McCann said Dempsey sent numerous messages to the woman, which were of an offensive nature, during a two-month period.

Sgt McCann said the defendant had not been in telephone contact with the woman since this incident. The court heard that Dempsey has no previous convictions.

Defence lawyer Ruairi Staines said Dempsey was in a long-term relationship with the victim. He said it ended after Dempsey discovered she'd been having an affair for a number of years, and one of their two children was not his biological child.

Mr Staines said Dempsey's behaviour in sending the offensive texts was totally out of character for him, and was borne out of concern for the children, though he realised there were "better ways to go about it".

Judge John Lindsay ordered Dempsey to enter into a peace bond for 18 months. A condition of the bond is that he is to have no contact with the victim.