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Father convicted on two counts of assaulting his sons:

A father of five on trial at the Central Criminal Court accused of the neglect and abuse of his children has been convicted of two counts of physically assaulting his sons.

The jury returned their verdicts after approximately three hours deliberations on day 10 of the trial and have retired to continue considering the remaining eight charges.

The jury found the 42-year-old man guilty of the wilful assault of his eldest two sons in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering, injury to the children's health or seriously effect their well-being on dates between January and September 2007. The boys were aged 10 and 11 at the time of the offences.

Ms Justice Elizabeth Dunne asked the jury of five men and seven women to retire to continue their deliberations on the remaining counts.

The accused man had pleaded not guilty to the rape and sexual assault of his now 10-year-old daughter on a date in September 2007.

He also pleaded not guilty to the wilful assault of his three sons on dates between January and September 2007.

He further denied the wilful neglect of all five children, now aged between 7 and 14 years old, by failing to provide adequate clothing or food.

During the trial Ms Justice Dunne directed a verdict of not guilty on a charge of the sexual assault of his now 13-year-old son because "there was simply no evidence of any kind to support that charge."