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Man charged with murder of his partner grief: Woman's family in court

By Eimear Cotter

A JOBLESS man has appeared in court charged with the murder of his partner at their south Dublin home over a year and a half ago.

Derek Finlay (40) was charged with killing his partner, Noeleen Brennan, at the home in Tallaght on November 11, 2008.

Ms Brennan (38) was found with serious injuries at their home at Knockmore Green.

She was taken to Tallaght Hospital, but later died from her injuries.

Sergeant Tom McManus told Tallaght District Court that he arranged for Finlay to be presented to Tallaght courthouse last Friday morning, where he charged him with Ms Brennan's murder, contrary to Common Law.

Sgt McManus said that Finlay was cautioned and was handed a true copy of the charge sheet. The sergeant said he made no reply after caution.

Defence solicitor Pdraig O'Donovan was assigned on free legal aid.

Mr O'Donovan said there was no application for bail.

Judge James McDonnell remanded Finlay in custody for one week to appear before Cloverhill District Court this Friday, March 12. Wearing jeans and a red jacket, Finlay had nothing to say to the court, except to confirm his name and address to the judge.

A number of Ms Brennan's relatives were in court to witness Finlay, who is not working, charged with her murder.

The accused was initially charged with the lesser charge of assault causing harm to Ms Brennan and was in custody awaiting trial.

But the more serious charge of murder was preferred on Finlay upon the directions of the DPP.

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