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11 years after conviction, kids to tell court: Mum Made Us Say Dad Was Abuser.

By Conner Gallagher

A man who pleaded guilty to abusing his children 11 year ago is to appeal his conviction after the youngsters claimed he DIDN'T do it.

The two kids, now in their 20s said their mum made them accuse him, a court has heard.

The man took his case before Judge Tony Hunt at the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court yesterday to leave to appeal the conviction imposed before former Judge Frank O'Donnell in 2000.

Judge Hunt allowed him to file the case to the Court of Criminal Appeal by close of business yesterday.

The 47 year old man pleaded guilty to six counts of sexual assault over 2 1/2 years in the mid-nineties and was handed a three year suspended sentence. He tried to change his plea to not guilty but Judge O'Donnell reportedly refused to allow it.

Counsel Ms Iseult O'Malley SC said the evidence was not fully disclosed. She said another child his wife claimed he had molested told cops he didn't.

The youngster – who was not a family – told gardaí at the time the wife was “mad” and “only saying things to get at (her husband)”.

Ms O'Malley said the wife testified this was true the defence applied to allow the man change his plea.

However Judge O'Donnell said he did not believe her testimony and did not think the disclosure issue was relevant. He then refused the application.

Ms O'Malley the kids have made statements saying their mother pushed them to accuse their dad. She also denies abuse took place.

Judge Hunt said Judge O'Donnell had not been in error and the change of evidence did not influence his decision to grant leave to appeal.