



What happens in a criminal trial?

Law & Order

Jealous husband free on kill threat

Angus Thompson, Herald Sun

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A JEALOUS husband who threatened to kill his wife multiple times has walked from court without conviction.

Sunjay Handa, 30, chased his newlywed spouse down a Fairfield street in full view of a frightened family after accusing her of infidelity.

The Melbourne Magistrates' Court heard that following an argument on September 1, 2013, Handa called his wife 100 times, leaving a voicemail saying she would die.

"It's the last day of your life. You will be killed by myself," Handa said.

The following evening Handa arrived at their flat to collect his belongings and move out.

He left for a short time before he returned running up the stairs screaming and accusing her of sleeping with somebody else the previous night and saying he would kill her.

His wife fell onto the bed and he slapped her to the right side of the head.

He held a mirror above his head then smashed it on the floor.

Handa again threatened to kill his wife before taking a box of belongings to his car.

She collected her shoes and ran, hiding beneath the stairs while he passed back up, then fleeing down the street.

Handa shouted at her to come back and charged at her.

The fearful woman asked for help from a woman and her children, who all ran away screaming when Handa approached.

Handa was charged with making threats to kill and assault.

Lawyer George Balot, of Balot Reilly Solicitors, asked magistrate Lance Martin Handa to consider the context of the threats, "which were made in the heat of passion and a strong suspicion of infidelity."

"He is both extremely remorseful and ... deeply ashamed of his conduct," Mr Balot said, adding the delay in court proceedings was a major mitigating factor.

Mr Martin said there had been many women murdered by their lovers, describing Handa's actions as "totally unacceptable".

Despite this, he acknowledged Handa's regret and fined him \$2,500 without conviction.

angus.thompson@news.com.au