

Judge declares mistrial in case of Irish firefighter charged with rape after jury deadlocks

By [Claire Thornton](#) and [Nick Stoico](#) Globe Staff, Updated June 20, 2025, 4:05 p.m.



Terence Crosbie, 38, is accused of raping a woman in a Boston hotel as she slept. AVA BERGER FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

A Suffolk Superior Court judge declared a mistrial Friday in the case of an Irish firefighter charged with raping a woman in a Boston hotel last year as she slept, after the

jury remained deadlocked following days of deliberations.

The jury, which began their deliberations on Monday, sent a note to the judge declaring a deadlock Friday afternoon. Later, they sent a second note saying they were “unable to reach a unanimous decision.”

But the case is far from over. Suffolk Assistant District Attorney Erin Murphy said her office intends to retry the case against the firefighter, Terence E. Crosbie. The second trial was scheduled for Oct. 14.

After court ended, Murphy sat on a wooden bench near the courthouse’s second-floor cafe, which had been closed for hours. She said convicting men of rape charges is always an uphill battle.

“These cases are uniquely challenging, it’s not the same as prosecuting a murder, where everybody accepts that the crime happened,” she said.

Crosbie, 38, is accused of raping the woman in the Omni Parker House hotel room he shared with another Dublin firefighter on March 14, 2024, while both men were in Boston for St. Patrick’s Day celebrations.

Crosbie testified last week that he never had any physical contact with the woman while both were in the hotel room. The case has gained media attention in Ireland, and Dubliners are following it closely.

Judge Sarah Weyland Ellis said Crosbie “is a flight risk” and set his bail at \$50,000 cash.

Wind whipped through the square outside the courthouse as Crosbie’s wife rushed away, covering her face with her hands after the hearing ended, and male friends from Ireland sat comforting her on concrete steps outside.

The friends told the Globe that Crosbie’s wife was unable to comment on the case, and referred questions to his attorney, Daniel C. Reilly.

Reilly said Crosbie is devastated he won't be able to return home to Dublin.

"He's obviously very disappointed in the outcome, as anyone would be," Reilly said. "He's missing his family, he's been away from his girls, his wife, since last March."

Speaking generally, Murphy said that the privileges and assumptions that lead men to rape women can also influence people tasked with judging the facts in rape cases.

"It begins with a misogynistic attitude, entitlement to a woman's body, and it ends as an uphill battle trying to convince jurors to set aside those same attitudes and not fall into a way of thinking that suggests some sort of contributory negligence on the victim's part," Murphy said.

Reilly said the defense hopes to raise the same "reasonable doubts" in the second trial, such as the alleged victim's testimony that she did not recall seeing Crosbie's many arm tattoos or remember seeing Crosbie in the hotel room when she first entered with another Dublin firefighter the night of March 14, 2024.

The woman, a 29-year-old lawyer, testified she had fallen asleep in the second hotel bed after having consensual sex with Crosbie's roommate. She told jurors she was awakened by a man sexually assaulting her.

"I woke up, and a guy was inside of me," [the woman said as tears streamed down her face](#) as she read a text message she sent to a friend at 2:18 a.m., shortly after the alleged attack.

On Wednesday, the jury of eight men and four women asked to listen to a portion of Crosbie's conversation with police that took place after the woman reported the alleged assault at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Jurors specifically wanted to listen to a portion of the recording when Crosbie asked the officer if his DNA could have gotten on the woman or her clothes if he had [masturbated](#)

on the bed earlier that morning while he was alone in the room and the other firefighter, Liam O'Brien, was at breakfast.

The judge said she could not play that portion of the interview because it was never entered into evidence.

Noting that the prosecutor referenced it while cross-examining Crosbie, she said jurors should rely on their notes and memories of what they heard.

“You may consider any testimony on this subject as evidence,” she told them.

During closing arguments, Murphy said the evidence supports a guilty verdict.

“There’s no mystery man here, there’s no phantom rapist who slipped off into the night,” Murphy told jurors. “Terence Crosbie is guilty.”

Murphy said that while the woman had consumed alcohol, she was able to provide a detailed description of the alleged attack to police and medical staff just hours later.

“If she was so drunk, or so mixed up, or if she was making up a story, then how did she have so much right?” Murphy asked jurors.

Additionally, evidence and records from the night in question connect Crosbie to the hotel room where the woman alleges she was assaulted, Murphy said.

Murphy also reminded the jury that two male DNA profiles were found in a labia swab from the woman.

“It’s a misnomer to say the DNA was inconclusive,” Murphy said. “What is conclusive is there were two distinct male profiles.”

In his closing argument on Monday, defense attorney Reilly told jurors an acquittal would end the “nightmare” that has taken over Crosbie’s life.

“I’m going to ask you to end that nightmare and find him not guilty,” he said.

John R. Ellement of the Globe staff contributed to this report.

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