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Prison for rapist who preyed upon disabled

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A SERIAL rapist who preyed on severely disabled women was yesterday jailed for 11 years.

Brian Dodds, 49, attacked women who suffered from acute mental and physical disabilities in a campaign of terror dating back almost three decades, Edinburgh High Court was told.

Dodds, of Ferry Road Drive in the city, raped a deaf and dumb woman and a cerebral palsy sufferer. When arrested, he claimed they had consented to sex.

He was convicted of four rapes.

His brothers Dennis and Ian were cleared of sex attack charges. Dennis Dodds, 50, of Hare-wood Crescent, Edinburgh, was acquitted of rape, attempted rape and indecency when Judge Lady Cosgrove ruled there was not enough evidence.

Ian Dodds, 43, of Niddrie Marischal Drive, Edinburgh, denied raping two sisters and the jury found the charges not proven.

One woman told the court she was raped by all three brothers. Her sister said the men had taken it in turns to rape her in a bedroom while she lay helpless.

Brian Dodds, who was cleared of three other rape charges, was told by Lady Cosgrove that he had narrowly avoided a life sentence for the She told the court: 'I was crying because I knew what he was going to do.' Her crying woke her son, who was about six or seven.

Dodds threatened the boy, ordering him to keep quiet about the incident.

Another mother said Dodds raped her when she was 14. And a girl who was living in a hostel at the age of 16 after rows with her family, told how Dodds repeatedly raped her during an all-night party at an Edinburgh house.

Dodds denied the charges, but Lady Cosgrove said in each case the victim had been 'a vulnerable young woman'.

The jury was not previously told that 'sickening' attacks. His victims kept silent at the time, but the offences came to light years later when one woman confided in her boyfriend.

The trial began last August when the deaf victim told the court how Dodds had raped her more than 20 years ago.

She said Brian Dodds took advantage of her deafness to sneak into her home in Craigmillar, Edinburgh, to rape her.

The cerebral palsy sufferer tried to hit Dodds with her stick when he forced her to have sex in a bedroom where her young son lay sleeping.

The woman, now 55, said Dodds visited her when her husband was out and carried her into a bedroom.

Dodds had already served five years in jail for raping a severely handicapped 37-year-old woman after breaking into her Edinburgh home.

Dodds was remanded in custody while experts decided if he was suffering from severe mental illness.

Advocate Derek Ogg, defending, told the judge that Dodds had been out of trouble since his release from jail in 1987.

Lady Cosgrove added Dodds' name to the sex offenders' register and told him: 'You are a danger to women.' Also in the dock was Roger Field, 44, of Romano Bridge, Peebles, who was acquitted of three charges of rape and one of assault with intent to rape.

Last night a leading charity for the disabled spoke of its horror at Dodds' crimes.

A spokesman for Capability Scotland said: 'We are horrified to hear of these rapes.'

'Any person has a right to feel safe and secure in their own home, and a disabled person deserves extra protection from their community.'

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