

She lives in fear of her younger brother

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Kim Urquhart has advised an Ontario Court Justice she will live in fear of the man who threatened to burn her house down, for the rest of her life.

That man is her youngest brother, John Massel.

Massel was sentenced to six months in jail and placed on probation for three years Friday after pleading guilty to threatening to kill Urquhart and his other sister Isabelle Sicurella, threatening to burn each of their homes down and breaching his probation.

Massel also threatened to burn down the home of his older brother, Harold Massel.

All three older siblings took the threats seriously given their younger brother's extensive criminal record. That record includes a 1983 manslaughter conviction that saw the Hamilton man sentenced to eight years in prison. Massel has also previously been convicted of threatening, robbery, assault causing bodily harm and armed robbery.

Prosecutor Michael Fox told court that trouble started to brew after the siblings' parents recently died, leaving two estates to settle. The accused man, who is estranged from the family, began calling Urquhart to inquire about his share of two properties, which he believed were valued at \$80,000 and \$140,000 respectively.

During a July 18 telephone call, Urquhart advised the accused that the proceeds from the two properties would be used entirely to pay the parents' debt.

An enraged Massel replied he would burn down the two properties in question and the homes of his three older siblings.

"Kim believes her brother will carry out the threats because he has nothing to lose and she genuinely fears him," Fox told court.

But defence counsel Beth Bromberg, who joined the Crown in making a joint sentencing request for six months of jail and three years of probation, said her client was just "mouthing off" and never intended to make good on the threats.

"He had no intention of hurting anyone," Bromberg told court.

In a brief address to court, Massel reiterated his lawyer's position.

"I know because of my record these things that I said were taken seriously," he acknowledged.

But from her victim impact statement, which Fox presented to the court, Urquhart made it clear she fears her brother will retaliate.

"I take a phone and a baseball bat to my room. I am constantly looking over my shoulder as I know my brother will retaliate and carry out his threats," she stated.

Ontario Court Justice Fred Campling told Massel his threats have had a profound effect on his sister.

"She says she will be scared of you for the rest of your life," the judge told him.

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