

“Your kids are melting”: Haunting Message Mother Left to Neighbour in Arson Attempt

A Norlane Mother has been jailed after setting her own home ablaze in an attempt to take the lives of two parents and their two children over a neighbourly dispute.

Samantha Darrington, 26, has been sentenced to two years and four months in prison after pleading guilty to arson with the intent to harm, while also committing an indictable offence while on bail.

She presented herself in Melbourne via Zoom call to the County Court of Victoria on the 10th of October 2024, 1:30 pm in front of Judge Carolene Gwynn.

The initial incident occurred on the 4th of June 2023, when Darrington got into a dispute with her neighbour which escalated rapidly.

The dispute began with Darrington asking her neighbour to use his phone, after declining, an exchange began as Darrington said “You better call the fire brigade”.

Darrington said “I’m burning my house with your family in it” and “You better get back, your kids are melting” to the neighbour with his pregnant wife and two kids caught in the line of danger.

On the 5th of June 2023, forensic analysts stated the centre of the southern bedroom was the origin of where the fire started and likely through a match or lighter.

On the 11th of June 2023, Darrington was arrested by Geelong Police for Arson with intent to harm.

Judge Gwynn described Darrington’s action to have caused “Fear and distress” with an estimated 139,000 in damages to the Northern Geelong property.

The damages are beyond repairable at the Northern Geelong property with the roof partially collapsed in Darrington’s bedroom with “sooting throughout” the home.

Darrington’s Mother appearing in court said “I can’t listen to this” as Judge Gwynn read through a detailed list of Samantha’s home life experiences growing up riddled with drug and domestic violence issues while growing up.

Darrington admitted to having been on methamphetamine the morning of where she was admittedly on a higher dose than usual.

She has had an ongoing drug problem beginning at age 16 with cannabis and later developed into an ice addiction.

Dr Austin Owens’s report regarding Samantha receiving psychiatric treatment and being diagnosed with schizophrenia but later retracted in a new report by Dr Seth Campbell.

In her sentencing remarks, Judge Gwynn referred to the ‘fortune’ that no one was injured in the blaze,

Darrington's prospects of a better future are guided by her ability to rehabilitate through her drug issues and remain drug-free for “yourself and your family” said Judge Gwynn.

Darrington was handed a \$500 fine along with the 28-month sentence ability to apply for parole after 22 months.

Darrington has already served 103 days in custody.