

# Family's fury at 'lenient' jail term for getaway thief in dad's shooting

By Sonya McLean

THIS is the man jailed for stealing the car used as the getaway vehicle in the shooting of innocent man Robert Delany.

Dad-of-two Mr Delany was shot twice in Russell Rise, Tallaght, on October 22, 2008.

He is still in a vegetative condition in hospital.

The car Robert Gaynor (23) stole, a white Honda Integra, was discovered on the morning of the shooting abandoned in the driveway of a house in Montpelier View, Tallaght.

Gaynor was jailed for 20 months for the offence.

## GRIEVE

Speaking at the Courts of Criminal Justice, Robert Delany's father Terry branded the sentence as "remarkably lenient".

"I appreciate the barristers are restricted in what they can say and the DPP is restricted in what they can do. Nevertheless, it is very frustrating from our point of view," Mr Delany said. "Robert is in a permanent vegetative state and will never recover. Doctors often describe his condition as worse than death. So we cannot grieve and we are left to look after him now for the rest of his life."

Gaynor, of Berryfield Drive, Finglas pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to unlawfully taking possession of



**JAILED:**  
**Robert Gaynor,**  
**left, stole a**  
**car used in**  
**shooting of**  
**innocent**  
**father**  
**Robert**  
**Delany,**  
**below**



a vehicle from Francis McCann Car Sales, Naas Road, Dublin on October 21, 2008. He has 23 previous convictions for road traffic and public order offences.

Judge Martin Nolan jailed Gaynor for 20 months after commenting that the car was taken for the purpose of the shooting, not joyriding.

"I am happy to accept that he did not know it was going to be used in a shooting but knew it was going to be used in illegal

activity," the judge said.

Gaynor was first arrested in March 2010 in relation to the shooting in Russell Rise, but was released without charge.

Detective Garda Michael McGrath told the court that he was re-arrested on October 19, 2010, when DNA samples taken from the Integra's ignition "were consistent" with Gaynor.

Gaynor admitted taking the car and said he had been told to do so. He told gardai it was his

understanding that the vehicle would be used in an incident in which "someone was to be given a fright".

He told gardai he had broken the steering lock and ignition with a vice grip before using a screwdriver to start the car. He claimed he then handed over the Integra "to someone else".

Gaynor said he was dropped off at the car dealership by someone else driving a Toyota Avenis but that he was alone when he took the car.

Det Gda McGrath said Gaynor was very upset over the "whole event".

He told the court that the Integra had been taken between 6pm and 6.30am on the day of the shooting. It had been parked in the forecourt and locked. The keys were in the office.

## REMORSE

He agreed with Luigi Rea, defending, that Gaynor's father had died in "violent circumstances" in 1992 and that his brother Daniel, died shortly after the car theft.

Det Gda McGrath accepted that Gaynor had shown "genuine remorse" during interview.

Mr Rea told Judge Nolan that his client has not come to garda attention since 2008 for anything "more sinister than road traffic offences".