

Magistrate orders psychiatric report before accepting plea

■ Jon Solmundson

A Geraldton magistrate says she would be unsatisfied taking a plea from a 30-year-old man, who is charged with repeatedly punching a police officer who was trying to detain him for a mental health assessment, until he has been through a psychiatric report.

Kane Alfred John Comeagain appeared in the Geraldton Magistrate's court on Wednesday,

charged with assaulting and obstructing a public officer.

Comeagain's legal counsel said he was ready to enter a plea, indicating it would be a plea of guilty, but Magistrate Donna Webb asked that the allegations be read out so Comeagain knew exactly what he was pleading to.

Police prosecutor Sergeant Carey Owen said on July 18 in Rangeway, at 10.07pm, Comeagain's family (who were with him at the

time) called police because they were worried about his mental state.

After police arrived they determined Comeagain needed to be taken to hospital for a mental health assessment but it is alleged Comeagain refused to go with them, and attempted to hide and escape the officers.

At one point, after police had attempted to restrain him, Sgt Owen said Comeagain broke free

and punched an officer in the jaw twice, and then multiple times to the body.

The officers were eventually able to bring Comeagain into the hospital for assessment, and the officer who had been attacked was also attended for his injuries.

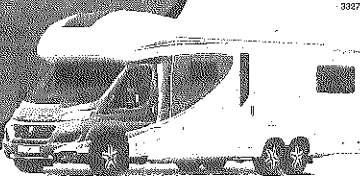
Comeagain was released from hospital the next day.

Ms Webb asked where the police's power to bring Comeagain in for assessment had arisen from,

and when she was told it came from the Mental Health Act, she questioned whether the obstruction charge was lawful.

Ms Webb proceeded to say that Comeagain had a history of drug-induced psychosis, and it would be best to get a psychiatric report before he entered his pleas.

Comeagain will next appear in the same court on October 13, with the psychiatric report and sentencing scheduled for December 5.



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Kids see dad bash pregnant mother

■ Jon Solmundson

A 35-year-old Spalding man has pleaded guilty to assaulting his pregnant partner in front of their children.

Ivan Joseph Walley was in an on-and-off relationship with the victim, which had broken down because of his drug use, when he went to the victim's home to take one of their children.

Walley ran off with the 21-month-old baby, only returning later to try and take another one of the couple's children.

This time the victim approached him with a length of timber, threatening him to give her the baby back but not strike.

