

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fraudster tricked cancer victim out of life savings



A conman posed as a barrister and tricked a woman with terminal cancer out of her £92,000 savings.

Michael Cremin, 41, was found guilty of seven fraud offences after buying himself 14 cars worth more than £330,000. Bristol Crown Court heard that he convinced Sandra Burch, 51, that the money would be used to buy land on her behalf.

Ms Burch, who lives near Salisbury in Wiltshire, believed that he was a barrister. She said: "The money was my pension pot and a little bit of money my partner had saved. At the time I'd been given 18 months (to live), which are the statistics for secondary breast cancer."

She contacted Cremin after a recommendation and checked his credentials online. "I was hoping the investment would give me an income and when I faced chemo I could stay home. It was an awful time for me to go through this."

Cremin, who had no legal qualifications, advertised himself as a lawyer but was described by police as a fantasist. He was found guilty of making fraudulent representations to acquire finance for a range of vehicles including a Toyota, a Lexus and a Volkswagen Scirocco.

The court was also told that he provided false employment references to a letting agency in Cirencester, and disputed the elderly owners' right to inspect the property he lived in as a tenant. They had to spend £20,000 on legal fees to get him evicted.

Detective Sergeant Dave Fryatt said police were trying to ensure that some of the stolen money was returned to Ms Burch. Cremin was sentenced on August 2017.

If you would like a free initial consultation to discuss your situation and options open to you then contact me Chris Berry at:

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