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Matt Lodge in US legal hot water

By AAP

Former Wests Tigers prop Matthew Lodge could be sentenced to another New York jail stint after being accused of ignoring a \$US1 million-plus civil lawsuit filed by the alleged victims of his late-night Manhattan rampage.

The legal team representing three victims of last October's incident said they will alert the New York judge presiding over Lodge's criminal case of his failure to respond to the civil suit.

The judge will sentence the troubled 20-year-old on June 17.

"We'll be saying he was granted every opportunity to respond to us, but he failed to do it," the victims' lawyer, Jeanne Christensen, told AAP on Thursday.

Lodge's deadline to respond to the civil case was January 12.

Lodge was originally facing a minimum of five years and a maximum of 25 years' prison after being charged by prosecutors with first degree burglary.

However, Lodge's lawyers struck a surprise plea deal that could keep him out of jail and avoid returning to the US if he adheres to orders including working in a Sydney soup kitchen, attending anger management treatment and completing other demands.

Under the plea deal Lodge was charged with a lesser misdemeanour charge of reckless assault.

His June 17 sentencing could be held via a Sydney to New York video link.

However, Ms Christensen said she hoped the judge would order Lodge back to New York after they raise his failure to respond to the civil lawsuit.

If Lodge does not live up to the plea deal struck with prosecutors he could be sentenced to 12 months' jail when formally sentenced in Manhattan on June 17.

"I'm hoping the judge says, 'No, he can't do it on Skype'," Ms Christensen said.

Lodge's rampage allegedly began when he confronted two women on an Upper West Side street at about 4am on October 16, asked them to return to Australia with him and then said: "This is the night you die".

Lodge, according to court documents, had a 0.256 blood-alcohol limit and was taking painkillers and valium.

Local resident Joseph Cartright came to help the women, but the 193cm tall, 110kg former NRL prop struck Mr Cartright, entered his apartment, smashed belongings and attempted to break his way into a bathroom where Mr Cartright's wife, Ruth Fowler, was hiding with their nine-year-old son, according to the lawsuit.

Lodge was arrested at gunpoint by NYPD officers and spent a weekend with murderers, rapists and gangsters in New York's infamous Rikers Island jail complex before lodging \$US20,000 bail.

Ms Christensen and Renan Varghese, who are representing Mr Cartright, Ms Fowler and one of the women, Carolin Dekeyser, in the civil action said their clients were not informed of the plea deal before Lodge struck it with prosecutors on December 23.

"I think they're concerned about their son and they just felt they were really wronged and they weren't going to get any satisfaction through the criminal system, which they definitely have not," Ms Christensen said.

"He's back home presumably looking for a new rugby team."

While a damages amount has not been set, the lawyers would likely be "seeking over \$US1 (\$A1.41) million".

The lawyers could seek Lodge's \$US20,000 cash bond and, if they secure a judgment in a New York court for their civil suit, they can pursue Lodge in Australia "and go after any assets he has".

"We'll certainly try and get as much as we can for our clients," Ms Christensen said.