

## Former NRL prop Lodge can't pay for New York crime

July 7, 2016 7:30pm EDT July 7, 2016 7:30pm EDT Former NRL prop Matt Lodge told his New York City law firm he is unable to afford victim damages over his New York home invasion last October.

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Published on Jul. 7, 2016

Former NRL prop Matt Lodge told his New York City law firm he is unable to afford victim damages over his New York home invasion last October.

*News Corp* reports Lodge phoned his lawyers ahead of the court hearing he is not present at where Joseph Cartright and Ruth Fowler detailed the night Lodge broke into their Upper West Side apartment and left their nine-year-old son traumatised.

Cartright revealed Lodge held him in a headlock and repeatedly punched him after he said "I come in peace, I'm Matthew Lodge and my lawyer will take care of this" once inside the house.

Cartright also explained Lodge punched a fist through a bathroom door where his wife and son were hiding.

The victims are seeking \$2 million in damages after shifting from the apartment they shared for 20 years and said they have undergone therapy.

The incident occurred after Lodge followed two women home from a night club and sought refuge in Cartright's house before the former Tigers told them they were going to die, and player broke his way in.

The couple testified Lodge ransacked the kitchen and threw furniture at walls before police drew their guns on entering the apartment after Lodge threw a wine bottle at them.

Lodge's lawyer Renan Varghese said the Junior Kangaroo contacted him within the last two weeks.

"He told us that he didn't have any representation," Mr Varghese said outside court.

"That he wasn't playing rugby anymore and he told us he wasn't going to be able to satisfy any kind of judgment. But this is the kind of thing we hear from defendants all the time.

"There have been articles about him in Australia about his (management) reaching out to the NRL about getting reinstated and resuming his career — considering his age we think there's a good chance he'll get reinstated."