

Two years in prison for killing brother

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Two brothers were involved in a heated dispute at a drinking party in their home when one of them fatally stabbed the other in the heart, a Winnipeg courtroom heard yesterday.

Fighting on the floor of a second-storey bedroom, Evan Miles Nelson, 20, stabbed his 21-year-old brother, Mathew, with a kitchen knife and then desperately tried to save his life.

'Deserve to be locked up'

"I'm sorry for what happened. I deserve to be locked up," Evan Nelson told provincial court Judge Kelly Moar after pleading guilty to manslaughter. "I have to live with that for the rest of my life."

Moar accepted a joint recommendation and sentenced Nelson to two years in prison in addition to 13 months he served in pre-trial custody. That equals 26 months in double-time credit.

The slaying happened about 3 a.m. on April 30, 2005, at the Nelson family's

Arlington Street duplex.

Witnesses gave varying accounts about what sparked the dispute and how it escalated.

One told police Evan Nelson was trying to stop a fight between Mathew Nelson and a girl. Another said Mathew Nelson was being rowdy in his bedroom.

Crown attorney Geoff Bayly said the knife punctured Mathew Nelson's heart and right lung.

He said Evan Nelson dialed 911, applied a towel to his brother's wound and then performed CPR in front of their younger brothers, age 16 and 14, and other witnesses.

Defence lawyer Greg Brodsky said Evan Nelson confessed to police and did not plan to contest the charge.

By pleading guilty he's spared his family from a painful trial and his younger brothers from testifying, Bayly said.

He said the quality of the Crown's evidence would be poor at trial because witnesses had been binge drinking and the kitchen knife was not located. There was some speculation it may have been stolen from the home the weekend of the fatal stabbing.