

Accused perv Rabbi Israel Weingarten grills crying daughter on details

BY SCOTT SHIFREL / DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER / Thursday, March 5, 2009, 1:56 AM

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A rabbi defending himself against charges he molested his daughter brought her to tears Wednesday with a third day of wacky cross-examination that left lawyers hired to help him exasperated.

The woman, now 27, looked away as her father, [Israel Weingarten](#), 59, asked her details of Jewish law, whether a window was open or shut, and the floor plan of a home in [Belgium](#) where he is accused of abusing her years ago.

"You had me there every day, naked, I did not notice if the window was open or not," she shot back. "I was kept by you in the bedroom, naked all the time."

In the afternoon, Weingarten took aim at his son, who is now 28, accusing him of fooling around with his sister.

At the end, Weingarten brandished a surprise letter his son wrote when he left the ultra-Orthodox community and seemed to blame it all on his sister.

"This letter was written in the worst part of my life," the son replied from the stand. "I was under your influence and your terrorism. You terrorized my life."

[Judge John Gleeson](#) repeatedly admonished Weingarten to keep questions relevant and stop berating his children.

Two lawyers Weingarten hired to advise him, [Barry Rhodes](#) and [Alan Stutman](#), tried to help but threw up their hands as Weingarten repeatedly ignored their advice.

"I've never seen anything like this," Stutman said. "I'm speechless. It is bizarre. I don't know what to think."

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