



POLLY'S AND MOHAMMED'S CASE.

BSC PROFFESIONAL POLICING

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This essay aims to examine the impact of mental illness on Polly's behaviour and decision-making abilities, explore the legal defences available to her, and the complexities involved in determining her criminal responsibility. This essay will also reference other relevant cases that involve mental health problems such as schizophrenia. Polly is a woman with schizophrenia who has committed several criminal offenses, including the murder of her partner. Her case raises questions about the role of her mental illness in her behaviour and decision-making abilities, and the legal defences available to her.

Mental illness is a complex issue that often intersects with the criminal justice system. When individuals with mental illnesses commit crimes, it raises questions about their criminal responsibility and appropriate legal consequences. Polly's case is one such instance that highlights the complexities of addressing criminal responsibility in cases involving mental illness.

The important facts that should be considered in Poly's and Mohammed's relationship, The scenario presented in this text is complex and involves several important facts. Firstly, Polly has been in a relationship with Mohammed for a decade and has been diagnosed with schizophrenia. This means that Polly may experience symptoms such as paranoia and delusions, which can lead to unpredictable behaviour. Mohammed would have known all the tell-tale signs of any paranoid episodes; he should have avoided the situation once he could see that Polly became paranoid. During a social event at their local pub, Polly becomes paranoid and accuses Mohammed of flirting with the bar lady, Roxanne. Polly's behaviour leads to her being asked to leave the pub, and she subsequently damages Roxanne's moped by severing the brake cables. This act is potentially dangerous and illegal.

Back at home, Polly continues to accuse Mohammed of infidelity with Roxanne despite his reassurances to the contrary. When Mohammed finally confesses to the affair, Polly responds violently by picking up a glass ashtray and hitting Mohammed over the head, causing his death. This scenario raises several important issues. Firstly, it highlights the potential dangers of untreated mental illness and the importance of seeking appropriate medical care. It also shows that a patient should not go untreated, and the health care providers must ensure follow up appointments with someone who is suffering with mental health problems. It also underscores the dangers of jealousy and the destructive potential of domestic violence. Lastly, it illustrates the importance of honesty in relationships and the devastating consequences of infidelity. Overall, this

scenario serves as a tragic reminder of the importance of seeking help and managing emotions and relationships in a healthy manner.

Schizophrenia, the mental illness that Polly suffers from, is a chronic and severe mental disorder that affects how a person thinks, feels, and behaves. It can cause individuals to experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking, making it difficult to understand and interact with the world around them. As a result, schizophrenia can significantly affect an individual's behaviour and decision-making abilities, complicating issues of criminal responsibility.

Polly's offenses include common assault, criminal damage, and murder. Her schizophrenia likely played a significant role in her delusions and behaviour. In this scenario, her mental health conditions may have impaired her ability to control her behaviour, leading to the fatal assault on Mohammed. Mental illness can significantly affect an individual's behaviour and decision-making abilities, complicating issues of criminal responsibility. Polly's case highlights the need for a thorough evaluation of her mental health state, behaviour, and decision-making abilities at the time of the offenses.

The legal defences available to Polly include the defences of insanity or diminished responsibility. She may argue that her behaviour resulted from her schizophrenia, which prevented her from controlling her behaviour in the specific instances of common assault and criminal damage. Proving this in court may be a challenging task. For the murder charge, Polly may argue that she had a mental illness at the time of the offense, which caused her to lack the necessary capacity to control or understand the consequences of her actions. Polly may, therefore, mount a defence for reduced responsibility, which can lessen her murder charge to manslaughter.

Similar cases to Polly's scenario include *R v Ahluwalia* and *Leon Hutchinson*. In *R v Ahluwalia*, a woman suffering from battered woman syndrome killed her abusive husband in a fire. The court accepted her defence, and she was acquitted of murder, leading to significant debate on the use of battered woman syndrome as a legal defence. Similarly, in *Leon Hutchinson's* case, a man with a history of mental illness killed his flatmate after experiencing paranoid delusions. The court found him guilty of manslaughter by diminished responsibility and sentenced him to Rampton high-security hospital. This case

highlighted the difficulties involved in balancing justice and treatment in cases involving individuals with mental health challenges.

Another case that exemplifies the complexities of the criminal justice system is the case of John Barret, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia and committed a violent crime. John had a long history of mental illness, and his condition was worsened by his lack of access to appropriate mental health care. Despite his history of illness and the circumstances surrounding the crime, John was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

This case illustrates the challenges of navigating the criminal justice system when mental illness is a factor. The courts must balance the need for justice for the victim and their family with the need to provide appropriate treatment and care for the offender. In John's case, his mental health history and lack of access to treatment were not fully considered, and he was held accountable for his actions in the same way as a person without mental illness. Furthermore, the case of John raises broader questions about the responsibilities of society in supporting individuals with mental health challenges. The lack of adequate mental health care and support for individuals like John can contribute to a cycle of illness and violence, with tragic consequences for all involved. As such, it is crucial that the criminal justice system works in conjunction with mental health services to ensure that individuals receive appropriate treatment and support.

The cases of Polly, Ahluwalia, Hutchinson, and John highlight the complexities involved in navigating the criminal justice system when mental illness is a factor. It is essential that the courts, mental health services, and society as a whole work together to ensure that individuals receive the support, they need to prevent further harm, both to themselves and to others. By doing so, we can create a system that is more just, compassionate, and effective in supporting the needs of all members of our society. Determining criminal responsibility in cases involving mental illness is a challenging process that requires a thorough evaluation of the individual's mental health, behaviour, and decision-making abilities. The courts must consider all the available evidence, including medical and psychological evaluations, to make informed and impartial decisions. In Polly's case, her schizophrenia likely played a significant role in her behaviour and decision-making, leading to the offenses. Liability for criminal offenses involving mental illness is a complex issue that requires careful consideration of the individual's mental state, behaviour, and decision-making abilities. While

mental illness can complicate issues of criminal responsibility, it is essential to balance the need for justice with the need for treatment and support for individuals with mental health challenges. Polly's case highlights the need for a nuanced and balanced approach to criminal justice that considers the needs of both the individual and society.

In conclusion, the intersection of mental illness and criminal responsibility is an issue that requires delicate balance and consideration by legal systems. Determining Polly's criminal responsibility requires a thorough evaluation of her mental health, behaviour, and decision-making abilities at the time of the offenses. The provision of legal defences available to individuals like Polly shows the need for a balanced approach. The cases of *R v Ahluwalia* and *Leon Hutchinson* demonstrate the complexities of addressing criminal responsibility in cases involving mental illness, emphasizing the need for a nuanced and balanced approach to criminal justice. As a society, we must work towards striking a balance between justice and compassion for individuals with mental health challenges, to foster a just and equitable system that serves all.

Reference List.

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