

Case Material – Mr Brown

George Brown was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment at Hightown High Court on xx/xx/xx for an offence of Assault to Severe Injury and Endangerment of Life. Mr Brown's victim has been permanently disabled as a result of his injuries.

Extracts from the Social Enquiry Report

Present Circumstances

Mr Brown lives at the above address with his wife of 13 years and their two sons aged 9 and 11 years. Mr Brown stated in interview that there are no problems in their relationship. However when interviewed Mrs Brown acknowledged that there have been difficulties since her husband lost his job following an accident to his hand 2 years ago. The family are dependent on state benefits and Mrs Brown fears they may lose their home due to the fact that only a proportion of the interest on the mortgage is paid. She has been advised to contact the lender for advice regarding this matter. Mrs Brown also says that her husband has been drinking excessively for the past year and has become aggressive toward her. She feels that the children have been affected as they have heard the rows and appear worried. She also said that they were a happy family before her husband lost his job.

Background Information

Mr Brown had a stable family background with his father in employment and his mother at home. He enjoys good relationships with his parents and brother.

Education/Employment

He experienced no problems at school and obtained standard grades in English, Maths, Biology and Woodwork. On leaving school aged 16 years Mr Brown obtained an apprenticeship as a joiner. He remained with the same company until he sustained the injury to his hand 2 years ago. He says he enjoyed his work, liked his workmates and felt valued by his employer. Mr Brown says he dislikes being unemployed and feels demeaned by claiming state benefits. He is unable to work due to unremitting nerve pain from his hand injury that prevents him undertaking training for other employment.

Health

Mr Brown states that he is in good health other than his hand injury. He says he has never been treated for mental health problems. Mr Brown consented to contact with his GP Dr Good. Dr Good informed me that he has had no contact with Mr Brown for over a year. He was surprised to hear that the nerve pain has persisted and suggested that further investigation is required.

Alcohol/Drug Use

Mr Brown says that he has only ever used prescribed medication. He takes paracetamol for his nerve pain at present. Mr Brown acknowledged that he has been drinking alcohol more frequently over the past year. He was unable to say how much he consumes but thinks it may be 30 pints per week. Mr Brown does not consider that his alcohol use caused any problems prior to the offence.

Offending Behaviour

Mr Brown has one previous conviction for Breach of the Peace 15 years ago. He says this was due to immaturity and youthful exuberance following a football match. Regarding the offence before the Court today Mr Brown explained that he had had a row with his wife about what to do about the mortgage and had stormed out of the house feeling very upset. He then spent most of the day drinking by himself in the local public house. He described "drinking himself into oblivion" when three young men approached him and began arguing. He claims that the victim of the offence threw a glass of beer in his face and he lost it"

Mr Brown claims he cannot remember injuring his victim. He is aware that the offences were extremely serious and that the victim has been permanently disabled as a result of the assault. Mr Brown says that while he knows that his behaviour was wrong it was totally out of character. He is very sorry about the injuries that his victim sustained but says none of this would have happened had he not thrown the beer in his face.