

Criminal Law News



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Commented [u1]:

Addressing knife violence - London

Sally Ramage

Knife violence in London, United Kingdom, will in future be addressed by a new Knife Crime Prevention Order, by amendment of the UK Offensive Weapons Bill, according to a Home Office announcement in January 2019, and this criminal offence will apply to 12 year old children and older if they breach a civil order or warning given to them previously, the implications of which are that they will then have a criminal offence recorded against them at this young age, meaning that it will be a foreboding on any who deal with them in future should they also not heed the new Knife Crime Prevention Order which will lie on their criminal record file for all law enforcement to see.

Because young children in the UK are not studiously trained as to what this legislation will mean to their future, they may go on to leaving school ill equipped for life and with the '*sword of Damocles*'¹ hanging over their head. Should they injure somebody in the future, there will be an indelible mark on their file and it would be so much easier for young children to fall in with the wrong crowd.

¹ This commonly used term was used by a Cicero, (106-143BC). Cicero was a Roman politician, orator, and philosopher. Cicero used this term "sword of Damocles" to infer that death looms over each of us, and we ought to try to be happy in spite of that.

Recidivist in the making

If they continue to do bad things such as committing a knife offence against another person, they can quickly score enough bad points to be labelled a recidivist (the noun derived from the French word “recidive” which means “a relapse; the commission of a second offence”).²

The Home Office announced last month that it will amend the Offensive Weapons Bill to introduce knife crime prevention orders. London firm Hodge Jones & Allen is worried the orders are a 'knee jerk reaction' to reduce the record number of fatal stabbings in England and Wales.

The Home Office did not consult with youth social workers, criminal lawyers, or members of the public, before inserting a clause into a criminal law statute. However, to be fair, it must be said that as a statute passed through the legal system of Parliament, House of Lords and back again, it is bound to be argued as and when that part of the new statute is ready for debate, argument, criticism, and it stays as such or is amended by its wording.

For an order to be made, a court would have to be satisfied that the defendant possessed a bladed article without good reason, in a public place or school, on at least two occasions within a two-year period. The court will be able to impose restrictions such as a social media ban.

² See: Burke, J. (Ed) (1977) *Jowett's Dictionary of English Law*, Volume Two, London: Sweet & Maxwell Limited, at page 1506.

Breaching the order, which can be imposed on children as young as 12, would be a criminal offence. However the young person will not be imprisoned in a young offenders' institution because this prohibitive and strong step the government believes is warranted, is not a conviction but a punishment, subject to a change in behaviour in the offender. This punishment will be stepped up, depending on how stubborn the person is or depending on how criminal-minded he or she is so as to ignore the rule of law.

Lawyers in positions of leadership

People in authority, with the child's best interest at heart, will be experienced enough to know that bad behaviour and stubborn behaviour are not due to the air we breathe or the waters or farmlands we live near to or indeed whether our parents were conscious of this new Knife Crime Preventive Order, or not. Of course there will be administrative support to enable the Order to work in practice. There already is a youth crime functional system. No-one can cause a child to carry a knife: a child who carries a knife out of his home has already formed intention to use it, whether he must or not. Even when the home environment leaves much to be desired, the education system is here 'called out' for being incompetent. Ethics, safety, unnecessary and unusual are words which come to mind.

Zoo animals display some strange behaviour and children knifing other children is also aberrant behaviour

The author has seen what stress can do to animals displayed in zoos. Once there were monkeys who sat pulling out their hair, leaving them bald and susceptible to infection. We need calm in order to think through what is happening and perhaps what is really needed is a mixture of methods to solve the tragedy. It is the poverty, lack of care and attention, lack of education regarding parents, children, officials and the criminal justice system.

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The life of Gerard John Schaefer (Junior)

Sally Ramage

Gerard John Schaefer (Junior) was an American man who was a convicted murderer and suspected serial killer. He was imprisoned in 1973 for murders he committed while he was working as a police officer, having reached the position of Sheriff's Deputy in Martin County in Florida, United States.

This former Florida police officer was suspected of committing 29 murders.

He had been accused of using his official status in order to get his victims into his car, claiming to be arresting them.

Schaefer's sick depravity

Schaefer's depravity is "gut wrenching". He would drive a victim out to a swamp area and then force the victim to consume laxative and alcoholic beer.

He became excited; he watched the victim defecate and urinate hurriedly due to the quick-working laxatives forced on the victim. Then Schaefer placed a ladder against a tree and at gunpoint, the victim was forced to climb up the ladder, place a noose around their own neck and then Schaefer would hang the victim.

Schaefer would then take the dead man down and bury him and days later, did

up the corpse in order to copulate with the dead body, a feature of many serial killers.

Schaefer was legally convicted of just two murders, but it was suspected that he had committed dozens of murders. Schaefer committed murders whilst his “day job” was that of being in the police department. Schaefer had good knowledge of his subject of interest and was well versed in autoeroticism.

After he was permanently incarcerated/imprisoned he still influenced others among prisoners, whom he actively engaged and encouraged into deviant behaviours to such an extent that they were considered his “groupies”.

Narcissism

Often, serial offenders are caught because they become very confident and complacent to the extent that they then take unnecessary risks. It is at this point they are caught; when their narcissistic behaviour and success in avoiding detection makes them feel invulnerable to identification and apprehension. It is obvious that the more intelligent, emotionally controlled and highly organised person would plan his crime meticulously, so as not to be caught.

It needs an even more intelligent, moral, highly specialist killer-hunter and experienced profiler and police specialist personnel to catch such a criminal.

Police know that such men as **Schaefer** are intelligent, emotionally controlled and very organized persons, by dint of their professional training and the

amount of time they spent learning everything they can about their particular deviance. These intelligent and careful criminals plan their crimes so as not to be caught. It is disputed that killers unconsciously want to be caught. Such intelligent criminals plan the crime with careful premeditation. They are cunning, conniving, lying, anti-establishment, sacrilegious, and among the most deviant of all criminals. They remind the author of deviant elites who rob the world of billions of pounds sterling in plain sight. It takes a particular species of intelligent cunning, deliberate agnostic lack of emotions, sentiment and personality, to commit such murders. Just as it does to raid a financial system in plain sight. Such criminals are not often caught. Such criminals are not usually volatile. However, they are often narcissistic and often begin to commit heinously depraved crimes to see if they will ever read about their crimes if discovered. This is their goals' end-to satisfy their narcissism. Their narcissism causes them to crave attention. They are criminals. They commit crimes of illegal behaviour.

Violence-a factor of life- in modern and olden times

Modern life is replete with news of violence, places where certain violence thrives; violence in computer games; violence depicted in films and much violence on the television. The public is constantly bombarded with scenes of true crime; docu-dramas; new films marked for adult consumption – as an eye-

winking nod to compliance laws. Violence features heavily in documentaries, and artistic depictions of violent crimes drawn by artists. The public's moral conscience has been systematically blunted, and the general public has become apathetic about violence, which they tolerate, accept and even expect and have become preoccupied in new movies and television plays and software games. The public has become addicted to a steady diet of scenes of violent crimes; violent offenders who are given star ratings by the documentary industries who feed the public on criminals in an unwarranted minutiae of the criminals who do commit the worse kinds of atrocities against children, animals, and the environment, in a never-ending dulling diet of anaesthetics to serial violence.


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