Current Criminal Law SALLY RAMAGE® online

ISSN 1758-8413

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Criminal behaviour

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Introduction

Everyone who has taken an introductory psychology course is familiar with the basic principles of operant conditioning described by B.F. Skinner (1938, 1953). Many have employed learning principles in their empirical study of delinquent and deviant behaviour. A critical feature of learning theory is the understanding of how organisms acquire new behaviour through interactions with their environment. Today cognitive behaviour therapy in correctional treatment settings is the evidence of that behaviour analytic approach to criminology.

Community Treatment Order: Mental Health Act 2007

Sally Ramage

The 2007 Mental Health Act inserts into the 1983 Act (ss.17A–G) the Community Treatment Order (CTO), which will replace after-care under supervision. The CTO differs from the latter in that it carries a power of recall to hospital. CTOs are different from s.17 leave, which will remain appropriate in respect of short-term absences from hospital. Clinicians will at least have to consider a CTO if leave is to be granted for longer than seven days or indefinitely. In such circumstances, it is important, not only that they do so, but also that they can show that they did so. Under transitional provisions, patients under supervised discharge when the new provisions come into force could be placed on a CTO or discharged, detained or placed under guardianship. A patient's Responsible Clinician (RC) (who need not be a doctor) will be able to make a CTO in respect of a patient detained under s.3, but only if he or she does so in writing and has the support of an Approved Mental Health Practitioner (AHMP).

Criminal Law News ISSN 1758-8421

Vehicle Clamping Order under Vehicle Excise & Registration Act 1994

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A clamping order must not be made except in relation to a vehicle which is registered under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 in P's name. The Court Act 2003 applies if amotor vehicle has been clamped under a clamping order, and at the end of the period specified in fines collection regulations; any part of the sum due is unpaid. The magistrates' court may order that the vehicle is to be sold or otherwise disposed of in accordance with those regulations, and any proceeds are to be applied in accordance with those regulations in discharging P's liability in respect of the sum due. applies if a motor vehicle has been clamped under a clamping order, and at the end of the period specified in fines collection regulations, any part of the sum due is unpaid.

ROAD TRAFFIC LAW

Simon Cooper and Michael Ore Second Edition Blackstone's Practical Policing Series, Oxford University Press ISBN 978-0-19-955975-6

Book Review by Sally Ramage

As the preface states, this book is a practical guide for those police officers in their daily business of enforcing traffic laws, addressing mainly the common problems and regularly encountered situations. It is not an encyclopaedia of road traffic law. The book is divided into twelve chapters and also contains five appendices. Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act defines what a 'reportable' accident is and chapter 2 deals excellently with this subject. Chapter 2 tells us that section 2 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 gives five parts to the offence of 'dangerous driving' namely: (1)A person who drives (2) a mechanically propelled vehicle (3) dangerously (4) on a road or other public place (5) is guilty of an offence. The very serious matters of causing death by inconsiderate driving, careless driving (Road Safety Act 2006, section 20) automatism, causing death while disqualified, unlicensed or uninsured (Road Safety Act 2006, section 21) are included in chapter 2.