

22/7/92
13/8/92
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SERVICE

PRE-SENTENCE REPORT 13/8/92

John Raymond HOKIN

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Parramatta Local Court
25th May, 1992.

Mr. Hokin is a forty-seven year old divorced man who resides in a home he is purchasing in Merrylands. He is presently in receipt of an Invalid Pension.

In regard to the following sections: Family Details, Education and Employment; the details have been taken from a previous Pre-Sentence Report dated 14th June, 1991.

Family Details

Mr. Hokin, born in New South Wales, is the younger of two siblings. His father died in 1978 and his mother, who resides in the Gosford area, is elderly and infirm. It would appear that relations between him and his family have become very strained over the years.

The offender married in 1975 and was divorced in 1980 when his son was about fourteen months old. It would appear that he has experienced continual difficulties in regard to access to his son.

Education and Employment

Educated in public schools, Mr. Hokin has said he qualified as a first class machinist in 1964. He worked for major engineering firms until he was retrenched in 1989.

Health

Mr. Hokin has said he is suffering from manic-depressive illness and attends the Merrylands Area Health Centre regularly. Permission was not given for me to contact the staff at the above centre but he allowed me to speak to his psychiatrist. The psychiatrist, when contacted, said he had provided a report for the Court.

The Offence

Mr. Hokin stated that, in his opinion, the offence was unrelated to his illness.

His account of the offence is as follows:

He was out for his usual Sunday morning walk. He saw the victim and thought he may be a devious person. He walked behind him and quickened his pace. Victim walked faster and looked over his shoulder at him

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re John Raymond HOKIN

Continuation sheet No. 2.

nervously. He caught up to victim at the gate of the park. Victim allowed gate to swing which hit the offender in the face. He questioned victim repeatedly without adequate response. He claims victim pushed him in the face. He said he punched victim on the jaw, scuffled with him then kicked him. He said he then stood back shocked at what he had done. He said he returned home and had some beer to settle down.

He said that prior to the offence he had drunk several beers the night before but none on the morning of the offence.

He said that after his arrest he was placed in the exercise area at the Merrylands Police station. A man approached him whom he thought may have been an undercover policeman. He said this person gestured to him which he interpreted to mean the man may have wanted to have a sexual encounter with him. He then attempted to hit this man. He said that when he was taken to the Parramatta police cells he said he could hear the police talking and he felt they may have been talking about him. On being let into the police cells he said he "king hit" another prisoner and he said to the police "Is that what you want me to do".

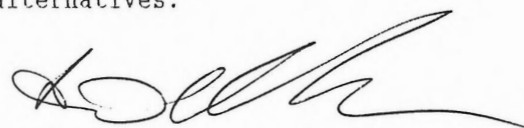
In regard to his criminal record. His explanation for the offence of Enter Dwelling at Night with Intent to Commit a Felony: he said he broke into his wife's residence in order to draw attention to the Court regarding his perceived lack of access to his child. His explanation for the offence of Hinder Police: he said that his son did not want to return to his mother and he attempted to stop his return.

Assessment

It is difficult to assess, without further details, whether Mr. Hokin's prior convictions were a consequence of his mental illness or extremely poor judgement. By virtue of his account of the present offence it is clear that his mental illness had become unstable and when interviewed for the purpose of this report he lacked insight into his behaviour at that time. However, despite his faulty interpretations of the events, he acknowledges that his violence was inappropriate and he has expressed appropriate remorse.

It seems probable that without adequate monitoring of this man's mental condition by the health services, similar offences may occur.

This Service can offer no sentencing alternatives.



David McLear,
Community Corrections Officer,
Parramatta District Office.

Telephone: [REDACTED]

25 May 1992