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### Problems Faced by Law Enforcement When Dealing with Mentally Ill Persons

People with mental disorders cannot think, feel and behave clearly. They are prone to commit acts of violence and aggression under the influence of their psychiatric illness such as command hallucinations or clinical depression. The law enforcers on the other hand are responsible for investigating crimes and apprehending offenders. Challenges arises when police officers are dealing with persons who have a wide range of conditions that affects their mood, thinking, and behavior. For this reason, officers ought to be protected not to become victims while handling mentally ill persons in their line of duty.

To begin with, lack of formal or legalistic intervention for emergency apprehension of people with mental disorder. Law breakers ought to be arrested and brought to the court of law for trials. There are no laws guiding the police on how to arrest and apprehend law breakers with mental disability (Estrine et al. 46). With such in mind whenever an arrest is made the perpetrator is not by any law convicted. Therefore, officer function on peacekeeping addressing situation of chronic vulnerability with a preference for informal provisional solutions.

Similarly, lack of specialized mental health training for law enforcers is another problem (Miller p209.) The ability of an officer to recognize and understand a mentally disturbed person may de-escalate potentially volatile encounters. furthermore, criminals may use the cover of psychiatric diagnosis to evade criminal punishment. Mental health training may lead to the best possible use of health referrals to resolve situations and block criminals from escaping

punishments. In addition, the training may assist in congested court proceedings to pave way for other cases to be addressed. Thus, training should be done to reduce time wastage and appropriate medical referrals to the mentally ill as well as assist the officers in their job.

Lastly, the police officers are subjected to danger in dealing with persons who has inability to think and behave. During arrest and appropriate referral an officer may be attacked and injured by a violent patient (Jurkanin and Hoover 112). Ineffective treatment laws that suggest someone to be dangerous to himself or others before he or she is treated.

The rights of a citizen becomes the duty of a police officers. Therefore all rights should be observed and the duty of the law enforcement be looked at to ensure that safety is guaranteed to both the mentally ill and the officers.

Works Cited

Estrine, Steven A., et al. *Service Delivery for Vulnerable Populations: New Directions in Behavioral Health*. Springer Publishing Company, 2010.

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