



## MONTHLY MENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Presented by the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office Mental Health Task Force

### In this Issue: Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD)



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### WHAT IS ANTISOCIAL PERSONALITY DISORDER (APD)?

APD, is a mental disorder in which a person consistently shows no regard for concepts like right and wrong and ignores the rights and feelings of others. APD persons are known to antagonize, manipulate or treat others with cruelty or at minimum, callous indifference. They do not present with guilt, remorse or empathy. Most are not criminal geniuses as in the movies and some may never break the law. For those that avoid breaking the law, their APD aids them in certain careers where a lack of morality or empathy is advantageous. The majority of ADPs do violate the law, and many become criminals. *Although most do not become serial killers, most do not follow social norms in regard to behavior and responsibility towards others.*

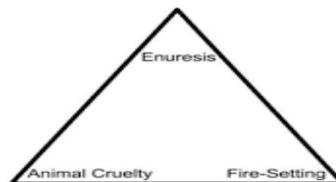
### APD Signs & Symptoms;

- Disregard for right and wrong
- Lies or deceives to exploit others
- Can be callous, cynical and disrespectful, or charming and witty to manipulate others for personal gain or pleasure
- Displays arrogance and has a sense of superiority. Controlling and opinionated. Has poor or abusive relationships
- Recurring problems with the law, including criminal behavior
- Repeatedly violates the rights of others through intimidation and dishonesty
- Impulsive, fails to plan ahead. Does not learn from past consequences
- Hostility, significant irritability, agitation, aggression or violence
- Lack of empathy for others and lack of remorse about harming others
- Unnecessary risk-taking or dangerous behavior with no regard for the safety of self or others

### Development of an APD

APD cannot be diagnosed in persons under the age of 18. Adults with APD typically presented symptoms of a predominately child/adolescent diagnosis known as Conduct Disorder before the age of 15. Signs and symptoms of Conduct Disorder include serious, persistent behavior problems, such as:  
*Aggression toward people and animals  
Destruction of property  
Deceitfulness, Theft and serious violation of rules.*

Not all APD's grow up to be serial killers. For those that do evolve to that level of sadistic violence the following dynamics are often found in their childhood. This theory, known as the Macdonald Triad was presented by Dr. J.M. Macdonald in 1963



ENURESIS past the age of 5, CRUELTY to animals or smaller children and/or sexualizing smaller children and ARSON.  
*All 3 feed their desire for control over others and objects. In time people become objects to them as well.*

### Risk Factors

Certain factors seem to increase the risk of developing APD such as:

- Diagnosis of childhood Conduct Disorder
- Family history of ADP or other personality disorders or mental illnesses
- Being subjected to abuse or neglect during childhood
- Though some theorize persons are born with this disorder, others suggests that unstable, violent or chaotic family life during important developmental years may create ADP features
- Men are at greater risk of having APD though females can and do present with ADP

### REFERENCES

The G.C.S.O. Mental Health Tasks Force encourages you to utilize the sources listed below and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) to learn more about this and other important mental health topics.

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/antisocial-personality-disorderhttps://>

[www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/antisocial-personality-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20353928](http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/antisocial-personality-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20353928)

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