

## Case Notes for Ryan

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### **Criminal History:**

Ryan is 24 years of age. He first came into contact with the justice system at age 15 when he was apprehended after a conflict with a video store owner. Prior to his most recent offense he has had two prior convictions as an adult. He is now serving probation for 36 months after being convicted of the current charges.

**Assault, resisting arrest** - resulted in a conviction with a term of probation of 36 months. Ryan was incarcerated at the time of his arrest. A charge of burglary was dropped. During Ryan's most recent offense he was charged and convicted with Home Invasion, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Aggravated Assault, Resisting Arrest and Battery to a Peace Officer. He was fined \$1,000.00, given 2 years of probation with strict conditions, and ordered to 500 hours of community service.

The events leading to his most recent conviction occurred on a Friday night in early June. Ryan was hosting a party at his new apartment to celebrate the successful renovation of a small coffee shop that he had been working on for nearly a year. He and a friend were planning to open their doors on the following Monday. Both had worked very hard to make this project a success-raising capital, buying equipment, and advertising their grand opening.

During the evening, a couple of his friends brought cocaine to the party. By then, most of them were already quite drunk and rambunctious. He and some guests began using cocaine in the kitchen when Ryan noticed that some of his guests were going in and out of his bedroom. This worried him because he had been keeping extra cash in a bag under his mattress. The money was going to be used to purchase lighting for the coffee shop and to make a few minor repairs in the kitchen area.

When he went to his bedroom a few hours later, he discovered that \$2,000 had been stolen. After questioning a number of people, one of his guests informed him that he knew who had stolen the money. In fact, he also knew where this individual lived.

Ryan and his informant immediately left the apartment with a handgun. The informant remained in the car as Ryan kicked at the front door. When no one answered, he began shouting and pounding on the door. The door was eventually opened and he found himself face to face with the occupant. With the handgun firmly pointed in the victim's face, Ryan insisted he get his money back. It eventually became obvious to Ryan that this was not the person he was looking for. The resident was an elderly man who, in addition to his terror, was visibly confused about what Ryan was after. Ryan apologized and quickly returned to his car.

A neighbor contacted the police who arrived on the scene as Ryan was pulling away. He denied the charges and accused the victim of losing his mind. When police searched Ryan's car, they found the handgun that the victim had described as well as a small amount of cocaine. Ryan could not believe this turn of events after coming so close to his goal of a legitimate business. He vowed revenge on the person who stole his money and on the person who misinformed him about the theft. In fact, Ryan beat his informant severely while awaiting sentencing but this event was not reported to police. He never found out who stole the \$2,000 from under his bed.

1. **Assault** of a neighbor – charges were dropped after a court appearance
2. Police contact for a **conflict** with a neighbor – no charges were pursued
3. **Possession of stolen property and commercial promotion of marijuana** – resulted in a probation sentence of 24 months. The commercial promotion charge was reduced to a charge of promoting a detrimental drug. Ryan was admitted to remand for a period of 7 days on these charges. The disposition reflected the judge’s belief that Ryan was not singularly responsible for the situation related to possession and trafficking. Regular probation termination with no incidents.
4. **Criminal property damage, assault** – resulting in a youth conviction with 18 months probation. Ryan was not admitted to custody for this charge. A shoplifting charge associated with this incident was not pursued.

### **Education/Employment:**

- Ryan completed grade 12 but indicated that school was always a struggle for him.
- He often found himself in conflict with teachers and peers and was suspended for fighting on more than one occasion.
- At the time of his offense, Ryan had been employed on a construction site for over 12 months. His employer indicated that Ryan is on time and that he has never had difficulties on the site.
- A review of his employment history suggests that Ryan is able to find employment and to maintain work.
- Two years ago, he was fired when he got into an argument with an employer.

### **Financial:**

- Prior to his arrest, Ryan appeared to be financially stable. He was able to manage his monthly bills and to save money to put toward the coffee shop.
- He indicated that he is still overwhelmed by the prospect of saving enough money to repay Kevin.
- Though resigned to this reality- he is quick to become angry when describing how his money was stolen.

### **Family/Marital:**

- Ryan is currently single and reported that he wants to establish himself in business before pursuing a romantic relationship.
- He has two sisters – Jeanine (28 years) and Rachel (22 years).
- All three children were placed in foster care when Ryan was 8 years of age. Ryan’s father had a severe substance abuse problem and he died in an automobile accident. His mother was unable to cope after his father’s death and she voluntarily committed herself to a mental health facility. The children were taken into state custody.

- He has never had contact with his mother since that time.
- Ryan indicated a desire to develop a closer relationship with his sister Jeanine.
- Jeanine is a successful officer manager at a walk-in medical clinic and formally worked in a similar role at a pharmacy. She is happily married and dedicated to raising her children. Jeanine confirmed that she would like to be more available to Ryan and indicated she would happily have more frequent contact with him. She believes that Ryan may be hesitant to reach out to her because he continues to run into problems. Ryan also seems to be intimidated by her husband who had a much more privileged childhood.
- She described her brother as a really good “kid” who has tried to stay out of trouble, despite incredible odds. She also reported that his “hot-headedness” has been a problem evident from his early years.
- Jeanine would like to have Ryan’s assistance in reaching out to their sister Rachel who is extremely troubled and living a very high risk lifestyle.
- She expressed doubts that their mother would ever have meaningful contact with her or her two siblings.

### **Accommodation**

- Ryan has moved once in the last 12-months.
- He was moving at the time of his last conviction and currently has a small apartment.
- The address confirmed that he is living on the fringes of a distressed neighborhood with a high crime rate.

### **Leisure/Recreation**

- Ryan reported that though he enjoys watching sports, he has never been very athletic.
- He reported that over the last year he has spent almost all of his free time focused on the “coffee shop”.

### **Companions**

- Ryan’s business partner Kevin was interviewed by his probation officer.
- Kevin impressed the probation officer as a very pro-social influence who took a particular interest in helping Ryan become more successful in life. Kevin acknowledged that Ryan had a tough upbringing, yet had a lot of potential. He struck Kevin as a hard worker and was very dedicated to the business proposal. Kevin admitted that he had considerable concerns about Ryan’s aggressive volatility, but believed that he was a genuine person who he could rely on.
- Kevin confirmed that the coffee shop was about 2 weeks from opening and that Ryan was instrumental in working out many of the obstacles that needed to be addressed to make the project a success.
- Ryan has a number of antisocial acquaintances and friends. He reported that he rarely has contact with them and that he realizes they will not fit into his future. According to Ryan the party at his home - the night of his last offense was the first time he had made an effort to spend time with his friends in months.

## Alcohol and Drug Abuse

- Ryan has never received treatment for a substance abuse problem.
- During the interview Ryan reported that he has used drugs and alcohol throughout his life.
- He denied having a problem with drugs but also reported that he has cut-back on consumption of alcohol and stopped all drug use. This occurred approximately 8 months before the current assessment.

## Emotional/Personal

- There are no mental health evaluations on file from previous probation terms and there is no indication that Ryan has received counseling or treatment in the past.
- A review of his offenses suggests that Ryan has difficulty managing his aggressive behavior. In addition to the assault charges, Ryan reported a number of incidents that were not pursued by the courts.
- He admitted that he was quick to use physical violence and that he has a reputation as someone who becomes verbally agitated, often yelling and taunting others when there is an indication of impending conflict.
- While Ryan was exposed to a negative family environment as a child, there is no evidence of physical or sexual abuse in the family of origin or foster environment.
- Without a formal psychological assessment, it is difficult to make a positive determination that he has suffered trauma.

## Attitudes/Orientation

- Throughout the interview Ryan maintained his innocence and distanced himself from the idea that he had caused any harm to the current victim.
- He repeatedly drew attention to his own victimization at the party. At the same time he also expresses a genuine desire to live within the limits of the law and act like other citizens.
- He presented the view that violence was natural for him – and was often inevitable or beyond his control. However, when asked if he might be interested in participating in a treatment program or group intervention that addresses aggression, Ryan said that he would be willing to consider this option.
- Ryan's probation records, suggest excellent compliance with the requirements of supervision (e.g., his previous probation terms were free of violations).