

James

James is a white British male who is aged 46. He is the younger of two children. His parents divorced when he was young and it wasn't until he was in his early 30s that he had contact with his father 3 times a year. More recently, he has reverted back to not having any contact with him. He has always maintained close contact with his mother and currently stays with her for the weekend every 3 weeks.

As a young child James repeatedly absconded from home and in an attempt to prevent this his mother insisted at times that he wore pyjamas.

Although he initially attended a mainstream school he was later transferred to a school for children with a learning disability and then special residential schools for children with complex needs.

James left school at the age of 12 and was accommodated by various foster parents as his behaviour became more difficult to manage. During this time James reports that another child with learning disabilities sexually abused him.

From the age of 16 through to his early 20s he carried out various criminal acts, which included: fraud, assault, criminal damage, arson and exposing himself to young children in public places.

As a result James was admitted to the unit for people with intellectual disability and forensic or challenging behaviour at the Bethlem hospital, London for 2 years.

Although James was initially subject to S.25A of the MHA (a Supervised Discharge Order) this was later thought to be inappropriate partly, as he was accepting of his treatment and because it was psychological and social rather than pharmacological. Instead, an application for Guardianship was made as a least restrictive alternative (2005).

Forensic reports by the Consultant Psychiatrist who had known James since the time of his index offence (1998) up to this point, stated that James becomes sexually aroused by both fire and young children. She also pointed out that the risk of him repeating offences these offences has remained unchanged as he appears to be resistant to treatment.

As part of James' Guardianship he was required to reside at a residential home for people with a learning disability and challenging behaviour, to give access to professionals involved with his care and to attend for treatment. In 2010 his treatment included attending a sex offender treatment group but despite this he continues to pose a threat.

Since then James has resided at a number of different specialist residential homes and has remained subject to Guardianship. His focus on young

children has continued and over the years he has made various attempts to make contact with some. He has also been made subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard in order to ensure that he can be closely supervised whilst outside of the home.

In 2006 he married another resident who also has learning disabilities but this was a volatile and abusive relationship, which often broke down and finally resulted in them divorcing 2017.

Given the risks that James poses to others and the degree to which he is vulnerable, the use of Guardianship has enabled him to live a far more independent life than would otherwise be possible.