

Group: Envy

Rationalization: Seeing Something Someone Has That You Don't Have

State-It: It is not uncommon for people to respond emotionally to life circumstances as events occur nearby. Most persons are aware of the common emotions, for example, happiness, sadness, fear, anger, and disgust. They do not think of another very powerful emotion that can cause people to react in ways that causes embarrassment to themselves and their loved ones. That emotion is envy.

Story-It: Incidents occurring because of emotional reactions to life experiences are not uncommon. In fact, I recently spoke with an individual who had taken a wallet that did not belong to him. I was assigned to speak with this young man who grew up on the west side of the city, in one of the poorer areas. I had known the person from seeing and talking with him on the street. He was very personable and seemed to be liked by everyone, although he and his family struggled, just to put food on their table. No matter how hard he tried, he could not seem to find a job. People kept telling him to come back when he had more experience. The young man was arrested for robbery. During an interview, the young man told me that he had seen another neighborhood man bragging about a job he just received. Not only was the man bragging, but he opened his wallet, exposing a large amount of money. The young man told me he became enraged and punched the other man, knocking him to the ground. He took the man's wallet and ran from the scene. After he had been arrested, the young man told me that he could not stand to see the other man in possession of all that money, when he had none.

Moral-It: I understood what the young man was telling me, because I understand the power of the emotion envy. It is so strong that people do not think of the consequences prior to acting upon the emotion. After the incident is over, they think about their actions. They are truly sorry and promise they will never act upon their emotions again. Now, they too understand the power of the emotion. In the case regarding the young man I interviewed for taking the other man's wallet, he was very grateful that he had not seriously hurt the other person, while taking the wallet. He was even happier that he did not have a gun at the time, because he may have done something he would regret for the rest of his life. He learned from his mistake and vowed to monitor his emotions more closely.

Link-It: People must learn to monitor their actions as well as their emotions. Talking through a problem is the best way to prevent an action from re-occurring in the future. As an investigator, I take great pride in helping others talk through their problems and learning from their mistakes.