

FORENSIC SCIENCE
IV SEMESTER

Compiled by -ANJALI GUPTA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
FORENSIC SCIENCE
BTIE , SAGAR

DATE :-30TH APRIL 2020

Introduction to anonymous letter

- An anonymous letter is without any name acknowledged, as that of author, contributor or may be the letter sent from the unknown person without any name.
- If however, the letter is indecent, threatening, or in any way likely to cause a breach of the peace, then the writer puts himself in peril of legal proceedings.
- Whilst many cases are dealt with as civil offences, writers of blackmailing, threatening and criminally libelous letters come within the ambit of the criminal law and are liable to long sentence of imprisonment.
- If anonymous letters are of threatening or blackmailing character, strenuous efforts are made to detect the offender wherever the offence takes place.

Classification based on Motives Blackmailing letters

If a blackmailing letter is to be taken seriously at its face value it should fulfill certain conditions:-

- 1) The sum of money demand may reasonably be thought by the blackmailing to be within the capacity of the victim to pay.
- 2) There should be practicable instructions whereby the money is to pass from the victim to the blackmailer.
- 3) A genuine blackmailing letter should contain a hint, if nothing more definite, of some reason why the victim should be called upon to pay.
- 4) No genuine blackmailing letter is completely without the promise that the current demand is positively and definitely the last and that if it is promptly complied with no more will ever be heard of the matter.

Threatening letters:-

- These are fairly common , but if legal proceeding are contemplated when the author has been identified, it is important to distinguish between those threats which are real and intended to terrorist , and others which are so extravagant that the writer is never likely to implement them. It is the threatening letter more than any other which sometimes contains the “planted” clue, which has deliberately been inserted to throw the blame for the threat on to the person the writer desires to harm.
- It is not worthy that the threatening letter where the writer intends and is in the position to carry out his threats is comparatively rare, and in these cases the recipient usually has an excellent idea of the identity of the person responsible. If he can be persuaded to speak, the investigation is simplified from the outset.

Letters of revenge:-

- A revenge is the motive behind a large proportion of anonymous letters. Include in this group are the “tip-off” letters sent to the police, tax officials, customs and excise, and to those in authority in business and other organizations.
- They contain allegations of some wrongful act on the part of the person it is desired to harm in the hope of bringing them into conflict with authority.
- It is the threat to write these letters that is most favored by the blackmailer, and very often it is the only threat he dares to carry out.
- Letters of recommendation It may happen that allegations of wrongdoing or of general inefficiency are stated in such general terms and are applied to so many people that the true object is not revenge as at first sight may appear.
- On the contrary, the sole aim is merely the recommendation of someone whose good character and efficiency is highlighted by the disparagement of others.
- In recommendation letters it is not difficult to determine the source of letter.

Spiteful letters

- The letters with the intent of malicious and spite are also the range of anonymous letters which contains abusive and rude language. The malicious anonymous letter is written so that the writer, almost invariably a middle aged woman can let her evil tongue run unchecked with little risk of having to answer for her actions. In this case, investigation of letters which are merely expression of malice and spite is often very difficult.

Collection of material for investigation

- The essential part of the investigation is collection of standards. The amount of anonymous material should be gathered together, for the whilst the chance of detecting the author of single letter may be good, it is increased out of all proportions when two or more letters from the same source are available.
- Therefore, discreet inquiries should be made to ascertain whether similar letter had been received by relatives, friends and neighbour of the complaint.
- If the inquiries fail to reveal any further specimens, efforts should be made to induce the writer to try again. The victim should be warned to be silent and to give no outward sign of having received the offending letter.
- In some cases the letters are written by the complainant himself, so from the beginning the investigator should bear in mind and caution should be adopted whenever the investigation is being discussed with him.
- Unopened letters The letters which are continuously received by the victim and they are not opened then they indicate that the letter is recognised by the victim before the envelope is opened.
- Thus, they should be preserved and handed over for examination, unopened. These unopened letters sometimes contain fingerprints which can be developed by ninhydrin process.