

IN THE COUNTY COURT AT HASTINGS

Case No: E00HS208

Level 6 Courtroom

Hastings County Court and Family Court Hearing Centre
The Law Courts
Bohemia Road
Hastings
TN34 1QX

Friday 30th November 2018

Before:
HIS HONOUR JUDGE AHMED

B E T W E E N:

SUSSEX POLICE

and

MICHAEL JONES

MS SCOTT-BECKETT appeared on behalf of the Applicant
THE RESPONDENT appeared In Person

JUDGMENT

HHJ AHMED

1. This is a committal hearing in respect of Michael Jones.
2. On 10 July 2018, District Judge Barbara Wright imposed an injunction against him, prohibiting him from doing a number of things: one, causing harassment, alarm or distress to any person not of the same household as him; two, three and four are not relevant at the moment; five, swearing or using abusive words towards any police officer, PCSO, any member of security staff or staff from Lift House.

3. Mr Jones accepts that he breached clause five on 2 November 2018; he does not admit that he breached clause one, and Sussex Police do not pursue that breach.
4. I am content for them not to pursue the breach of clause one and I therefore find, upon Mr Jones' own admission, only that he breached clause five.
5. Mr Jones has had a sad life; a night on the streets is beyond the comprehension and understanding of most of us. In his case he has had 10 years of it. It has moulded him, to a large extent, into the person that he is. Happily for him, he has now been housed. He has got new confidence, a new purpose in life, and a new beginning. That is going to motivate him, I believe and hope, to change the way in which he has lived his life so far, and that is particularly in respect of his behaviour towards, and in front of, other people, particularly members of the public.
6. This is not the first time that he has come before this court for breaches of injunctions. He was recently sentenced to eight weeks, or he was in custody for eight weeks, for a breach. He spent the bulk of October 2018 in custody. On this matter he has spent the equivalent of a week's sentence in custody, so he has been punished for this breach in that way, whatever one may label it as.
7. As regards the offence, the breach itself, his account, which I accept, is that he was set upon by people, kicked in the head, he was a little confused and frustrated, and he swore in the presence of the police officers.
8. I should mention that he suffers with depression, that he has medication for that, and, now that he is housed, it will be easier, I imagine, for him to address that issue as well. This is the clearest case that there could be of someone turning over a new leaf and, for all the reasons which I have given, it is appropriate for me to make no order on the breach, and to conclude the matter, in the hope that the court does not see Mr Jones in this position again.

End of Judgment

Transcript from a recording by Ubiquis
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This transcript has been approved by the judge.