



JUDICIARY OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

REGINA

-v-

JAMIE CHADWICK

Manchester Crown Court

3 November 2020

**Sentencing Remarks of Mrs Justice Yip DBE**

1. Jamie Chadwick you are 22 years old and are to be sentenced for the murder of Orianna Crilly-Cifrova, an innocent child, aged only 12 months when you took her life away.
2. There is only one sentence that the law allows to be passed for murder: that is a mandatory life sentence. That is the sentence I shall pass but I am also required to specify the minimum term which must elapse before you can be considered for release on licence. It will then be for the Parole Board to consider whether, and if so when, you can safely be released.
3. Orianna was the baby daughter of Chelsea Crilly and Adrian Cifra. After her parents' separation, you entered into a relationship with Chelsea Crilly. She had known you and your family most of her life.
4. The relationship was a source of concern to the authorities for good reason. In July 2018, another baby, referred to in this case as 'T' had been taken to hospital with serious injuries, including head injuries. There were signs he had been shaken. Medical opinion concluded that the injuries were inflicted rather than accidental. At the time, you were in a relationship with T's mother. The only possible perpetrators were you or the mother. You remained under police investigation in relation to T's injuries until after Orianna's death. In the end, no charges relating to T were brought against you (or the mother). While you remained under investigation, it was made clear to you that you were to avoid contact with children. Certainly, you well knew that you were not to be

left with a child in your sole care. You lied to your probation officer by claiming that you were not having contact with Orianna. You also played your part in the prolonged deception of social workers, including on one occasion hiding under a bed when a social worker visited Orianna and Miss Crilly.

5. I make it plain that I cannot and do not take the injuries sustained by T into account when sentencing you. You have not been convicted of, or even charged with, any offence relating to T. As a matter of common sense, the fact that you have been convicted of Orianna's murder strengthens the suspicion that you were responsible for T's injuries. However, suspicion cannot form any basis for uplifting the sentence in this case. You are to be sentenced only for the murder of Orianna. It is though an important part of the background that when you murdered Orianna you knew full well that you were not allowed to have contact with children. It is also significant that you had discussed the reasons for the authorities' concerns with Miss Crilly and had assured her that you would never harm any child.
6. Sadly, Miss Crilly chose to believe you rather than follow the advice she was given by the professionals. As was clear when she gave evidence, that is a decision she will regret for the rest of her life.
7. While we have heard relatively little about Orianna's short life, her mother said that she was clever, loved everyone and was funny. The professionals had no concerns about her development. She was loved by family members, including her father. Interactions with health and social care professionals suggested she was generally happy.
8. She was not happy the night before you fatally injured her. It is now known that she had fractured ribs and a fractured vertebra in her neck. Her sleep was disturbed, and she was said to have been "whingey". That is hardly surprising. She was in need of comfort and care. I am unable to be sure that you had inflicted those injuries. The expert opinion of Professor Mangham suggested that they may have occurred within a time period when you did not have care of Orianna. I do not therefore sentence you on the basis that you had inflicted injuries on Orianna before those that led to her death.
9. Last October, you and Miss Crilly were living with your sister, Aysha Muhammed. On 16 October, Miss Crilly accompanied your sister to an appointment. Orianna was asleep in her pram. Miss Crilly decided to leave her in the flat with you, as she had done on other occasions. In all, they were gone just over an hour. When they returned, you told them that Orianna had fallen down a small flight of steps but that she was fine and was now asleep. She was far from fine. In truth, she had suffered catastrophic

head injuries. She was almost lifeless when discovered. Despite the best efforts of the paramedics who attended promptly and the expert medical care she received, Orianna's injuries were unsurvivable and she died the next day.

10. Only you know what happened when you and Orianna were alone in the flat. You have given three untruthful accounts. First, you tried to tell the police that you were not there when Orianna was hurt. Then you told them the story you had told Miss Crilly that Orianna had suffered a tragic accident. Finally, after you had heard all the prosecution expert evidence which so clearly established that the injuries could not have been caused accidentally, you sought to cast the blame onto Miss Crilly claiming that you had seen her kicking Orianna. The jury saw through your blatant lies.
11. Orianna suffered awful injuries. The pathologist, Dr Wilson, described her skull as being shattered. There had been two really heavy blows to the back of her head. The force required to cause the injuries to the right side has been compared to that involved in a high speed road traffic accident or a multi-storey fall. Her skull must have impacted with something hard. Either she was struck with something or perhaps kicked with a shod foot or her head was struck against a wall or other hard surface. It may be that the kick you enacted in the witness box as part of your account of what you claimed Miss Crilly had done was in fact something you did. There was also good evidence that Orianna had been shaken. What is very clear from all the expert evidence heard at trial is that those injuries could not have resulted from a single action. I cannot say over what period your attack on Orianna was sustained but I am sure that it represented more than a momentary loss of temper.
12. You knew immediately that Orianna was very badly hurt and needed urgent medical attention. I have no doubt that the description you gave the police of her condition after the alleged fall down the steps was an account of what you witnessed after you attacked her. You said that you looked in her eyes and it was horrible. Despite this, you strapped her back in her pram and left her alone in a bedroom. You tried to stop her mother and your sister going to check on her. In doing so, you were leaving her to die.
13. You are still young, and it is plain from all I have seen and heard that you are immature. I have considered a psychiatric report from Dr Shaw dated 1 February 2020 and a psychological report from Dr Todd dated 6 February 2020. I have, of course, also had the opportunity to observe you during the trial, including when you gave your evidence.
14. The expert evidence confirms that you have a mild learning disability and a probable conduct disorder. You have a past history of ADHD and have previously experienced

auditory hallucinations, possibly related to cocaine misuse. There was no evidence that you were suffering from psychosis at the time of the offence. There is nothing within the reports to explain or excuse what you did.

15. You do have some previous convictions but not for offences of violence and I disregard them in sentencing you today. You have never served a custodial sentence before being remanded in relation to this offence. I recognise that you have not found your time on remand easy.
16. Parliament has set out a statutory scheme for sentencing for murder in Schedule 21 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003. The starting point before considering aggravating and mitigating factors is 15 years. That will not be the end point in this case.
17. Statutory aggravating factors are set out at paragraph 10 of Schedule 21. I find that the following sub-paragraphs apply to this case:
  - (a) the fact that the victim was particularly vulnerable because of age;
  - (d) the abuse of a position of trust.
18. I shall be careful not to double count these factors. Very often these two factors overlap where a child has been killed by someone left to care for them. They are two sides of the same thing. However, I consider that your breach of trust went beyond that. Your express assurances to Miss Crilly that you would never hurt a child influenced her misguided decision to leave Orianna with you. You also deceived your probation officer. Had you told the truth, the authorities would have had an opportunity to intervene. Even if not regarded as a separate statutory aggravating factor, I have no doubt that the background whereby you knew you were not to have contact with children and reassured Miss Crilly that you would never harm a child aggravates the offence. Orianna should have been safe from you because you should not have been having any unsupervised contact with children at the time.
19. I do not find that you inflicted suffering on Orianna before death, such as to come within sub-paragraph (c). I have already said that I cannot be sure you inflicted the earlier injuries. Although Orianna survived for 30 hours, mercifully it is likely that she was unconscious or only minimally conscious given the severity of her injuries. Of course, those 30 hours must have been dreadful for her family.
20. The fact that you sought to put the blame on Miss Crilly is a further aggravating factor. This was a cowardly final effort by you to escape the consequences of what you had done. It can only have served to increase her distress.

21. I consider that the following mitigating factors referred to in paragraph 11 to Schedule 21, are relevant:
- (a) an intention to cause serious bodily harm rather than to kill
  - (b) lack of premeditation
  - (g) your age.
22. I accept that you did not plan to kill Orianna and cannot say that you intended to kill rather than to do her serious harm. However, set against that, even after you had calmed down, you did nothing to seek medical help for her and you even tried to deter others from checking on her. She was a defenceless child wholly unable to fend for herself. Your attack on her was more than a momentary loss of temper. It is quite clear you persisted in hurting her even if I cannot say how long the attack lasted. In the circumstances, the mitigation offered by the absence of an intent to kill and lack of premeditation is less than it might otherwise be.
23. Having accepted that your age and immaturity does offer some mitigation, I cannot go so far as to say that your culpability was lowered to any significant degree by mental disability. You were not left caring for Orianna for a prolonged period in circumstances where your inability to cope played a part. She was left with you for about an hour. It is very hard to understand why you lost your temper to the extent that you did within such a short time. Your mild learning disability cannot offer an explanation.
24. In the end, I must sentence you for the violent murder of a blameless one-year-old child left in your care. There can be no sensible reason or excuse for that. I have balanced all the aggravating and mitigating factors I have identified in arriving at the final minimum term which I impose.

**The sentence**

25. Jamie Chadwick, for the murder of Orianna Crilly-Cifrova, I sentence you to life imprisonment. Taking account of all the factors I have set out, the minimum term will be one of 18 years, less the 366 days that you have spent on remand in custody following your arrest. If that calculation is found to be erroneous, it will be corrected without the need for a further hearing.
26. That term represents the minimum period you will be required to serve. After it is served, there is no guarantee that you will be released at that time, or at any particular time thereafter. It will then be for the Parole Board to decide if you are fit to be released. You must also understand that if you are released you will remain subject to licence for

the rest of your life and may therefore be liable to be recalled and to continue your detention if you reoffend.

27. The appropriate statutory surcharge will be applied.