

Ponke from page 1A

"By the time it's presented to a neurologist, the person usually already has a behavior disturbance," Roasman said.

This can include increased irritability, compulsiveness and fits of temper.

"I assume, though I can't quote you anything, there could be outbursts of violence if they have uncontrolled tempers or rage," Roasman said.

Raymond Ponke reportedly made several threatening phone calls to his wife, saying he was going to be her "judge and jury."

He also admitted to police he spent 10 hours sledgehammering the family's Oxford home at Christmas, causing \$50,000 in damage. Walls, toilets and sinks were destroyed during the rampage.

In the house, police testified, they later found neckties, torn strips of cloth and a cut extension cord near a bed. Underneath, they discovered a knife.

Ponke also kidnapped the couple's 9-year-old daughter, Ashley, and took her to Tennessee. She managed to escape and get help.

During preliminary examination testimony, it was revealed Ponke had a family history of Huntington's disease.

Although only four or five people in one million develop Huntington's disease, Roasman said, there's a 50-percent chance of getting it if a parent has it. Ponke's



Jackie Ponke

father died from Huntington's disease, according to reports.

"There's a high degree of correlation," Roasman said. "If you have a family history (of Huntington's), you can test uninfected individuals to look for the damaged chromosome."

The disease most often strikes people between ages 30 and 50, according to Steadman's Medical Dictionary.

In addition to psychiatric disturbances, Huntington's sufferers contend with involuntary facial movements and gradual loss of mental faculties, which eventually ends in dementia. No cure exists, Roasman said.

"You treat the symptoms," he said.

Expert testimony key, costly in Ponke defense

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to preparing an insanity defense, it takes expertise — not to mention a few experts — according to a Farmington Hills attorney.

Raymond Casar has used insanity pleas to defend clients in the past and is considered knowledgeable on the subject. He's watching the upcoming Raymond Ponke trial with interest.

Attorneys for Raymond Ponke are expected to argue their client was insane when his estranged wife, Jackie Ponke, was beaten to death with a hammer. Opening arguments start today in the murder trial.

Expert witnesses are expected to testify for both sides.

"It's absolutely crucial," Casar said. "When it comes to insanity defenses, it's a battle of the experts."

In Ponke's case, resources for experts witnesses are limited. The estate of Jackie Ponke had the accused's assets frozen.

Oakland Circuit Court Judge Jessica Cooper granted Ponke's attorneys use of expert witnesses, at state expense, with a cost of no more than \$3,000.

Attorney Tim Ash declined comment whether that figure was adequate. Standard fees for a good expert witness can run be-

tween \$5,000 to \$10,000, Casar said.

"You're saying, Can you get an expert to testify for \$3,000? Yes, I think you can," Casar said. "The question is can you get a good expert, a person who has a lot of credentials."

Expert witnesses might be only one problem, Casar said.

Defendants can be found not guilty by reason of insanity, or guilty but mentally ill.

"The biggest hurdle the defense is going to have to meet is: You're not allowed as a defense attorney to say, 'Look, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, if you come back with a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity... That does not mean my client goes free,'" Casar said. "We're not allowed to tell the jury that."

"What the jury thinks is if they come back with a not guilty by reason of insanity verdict, you're going to slap the guy on the hand and say you're free to walk the streets."

With a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity, a person is committed to the state forensic center for 60 days. After that time, the person can be released if mentally fit.

Those found guilty but mentally ill serve the terms in a prison that usually has psychiatric services available.

Dress from page 1A

One granddaughter, 9, was wearing a denim jumpsuit with new Keds tennis shoes. Cravens had on a silk summer suit with dress shorts. The other granddaughter, 16, was wearing black slacks and a sweater.

The hostess refused to seat them, Cravens said, citing the tennis shoes and her shorts.

"I didn't think we looked bad," Cravens said. "... I think that's going too far."

Cravens sent a letter to Lovill. "I won't be back," she said.

That bothers Lovill, who said she's not been able to explain the reason behind the proper attire request or listen to why they're against it.

She put a survey in nearby Three Oaks Furniture store to hear them out. Those turned away often turn up there to ask if there's another place to eat.

Lovill operated a tea room in

"We're trying to keep it a special place, the atmosphere has to be part of it."

Doris Lovill

Franklin Village. Dress wasn't a problem there, she said.

She didn't expect one in Farmington, either. Otherwise, Lovill said she would've instituted a policy when the tea room opened.

It would be easy to allow everyone in, no matter how they're dressed, Lovill said. She feels that would encroach upon the ambience of the tea room, which includes a harpist, antiques and linens.

"We're trying to keep it a special place, the atmosphere has to be a part of it," she said.

Farmington Hills police celebrate award winners

Farmington Hills police announced awards based upon the recommendation of the Citation and Award Board at its Aug. 24 meeting.

Officer Charles Rozum was given a citation for the arrest of a suspect in connection with a break-in of a business June 10. Officers Robert Plotzke and Richard Norman were awarded citations for their work in arresting two suspects for the unarmed robbery of a citizen on July 5.

Officers Bradley Schwartz, James Jarrett and James Kase were awarded unit citations for the arrest of an armed suspect during a family dispute on May 21.

Officers John Markey and Michael Farley were given commendations for the arrest of two suspects for cultivating with the intent to deliver marijuana on April 4. Officer Gary Brady was awarded a commendation for an arrest for possession of a half pound of marijuana on Aug. 2.

Also recognized were five Detroit police officers for their work in assisting Hills police in a critical Class A bomb incident on July 28. Those Detroit officers receiving the unit citations were Sgt. Dale Johnston and officers David Pauch, Willie Tate, David Witherspoon and Daniel Van-Lacken.

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Second is activity. Having arthritis means you must move more than other people, as sitting brings stiffness, often to an intolerable ache. What you should do and can undertake is something you learn from your body. No doctor in his office can tell you how to live in your home.

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