

Assault Public Officer

ss 318 and 318A *Criminal Code*

From 1 January 2021

Transitional Sentencing Provisions: This table is divided into thirds based on the three relevant periods of Sentencing Provisions:

- Post-transitional provisions period
- Transitional provisions period
- Pre-transitional provisions period

These periods are separated by a row which shows when the transitional provisions were enacted, and another showing when they were repealed.

Glossary:

agg	aggravated
att	attempted
burg	burglary
conc	concurrent
cum	cumulative
ct	count
EFP	eligible for parole
imp	imprisonment
PG	plead guilty
susp	suspended
TES	total effective sentence

No.	Case	Antecedents	Summary/Facts	Sentence	Appeal
1.	<p><i>Brooks v The State of Western Australia</i></p> <p>[2021] WASCA 156</p> <p>Delivered 03/09/2021</p>	<p>39 yrs at time sentencing.</p> <p><u>Indictment -Supreme</u> Convicted after trial.</p> <p><u>Magistrates Court</u> Convicted after PG (20% discount).</p> <p><u>Indictment - District</u> Convicted after late PG (15% discount).</p> <p>Lengthy criminal history; including interstate offending.</p> <p>Traumatic childhood; experienced death of older sister when he was aged 6 yrs; mother a yr later.</p> <p>Lived with physically violent grandmother; subsequently lived with his father who was physically and emotionally abusive.</p> <p>Left school aged 13 yrs; commenced using drugs.</p> <p>Left home aged 15 yrs; reconciled with his family aged 28 yrs.</p> <p>Inconsistent early employment history; trade work late twenties; self-employed roof plumber early thirties.</p> <p>2 yr relationship at time offending; young son together; partner history of substance abuse and offending behaviour, reported to have made significant positive changes in her lifestyle; partner and her parents supportive.</p> <p>Severe symptoms of anxiety, depression and stress; diagnosed with PTSD.</p>	<p><u>Indictment -Supreme</u> Ct 1: Agg armed robbery. Ct 2: Armed so as to cause terror.</p> <p><u>Magistrate Court</u> Offending comprised 19 offences on various dates, including breaches of bail, unlicensed possession of a firearm, no authority to drive, trespass, burglary and stealing.</p> <p>Magistrate Court appeal commenced in Supreme Court referred to Court of Appeal.</p> <p><u>Indictment – District</u> Cts 1 & 3: Criminal damage. Cts 2 & 4: Stealing. Cts 5-6: Poss stolen or unlawfully obtained property. Ct 7: Escaping lawful custody. Cts 8 & 12: Robbery. Ct 9: Aiding a person to escape lawful custody. Ct 10: Assault public officer. Ct 11: Assault with intent to rob. Ct 13: Burglary. Ct 14: Agg Burglary. Ct 15: Steal motor vehicle.</p> <p><u>Indictment – Supreme Court</u> Brooks and a co-offender decided to rob a newsagency. With their faces covered and each carrying a knife they rushed into the newsagency.</p> <p>The co-offender shouted at the woman working behind the counter to give him money. When the co-offender went behind the counter the woman picked up a cricket bat, so he pushed the woman with force, causing her to fall on the floor. He put the knife near her neck and repeated his demand for money.</p> <p>The woman’s daughter heard her mother’s screams and began to telephone the police. Brooks screamed</p>	<p><u>Indictment - Supreme</u> Ct 1: 4 yrs 4 mths imp (cum). Ct 2: 9 mths imp (cum).</p> <p>TES 5 yrs 1 mth imp (cum on sentence imposed by Supreme Court). EFP.</p> <p><u>Magistrate Court</u> TES 1 yr 3 mths imp. EFP.</p> <p><u>Indictment - District</u> Ct 1: 6 mths imp (conc). Ct 2: 12 mths imp (conc). Ct 3: 15 mths imp (conc). Ct 4: 15 mths imp (conc). Ct 5: 6 mths imp (conc). Ct 6: 12 mths imp (conc). Ct 7: 12 mths imp (conc) (no EFP). Ct 8: 14 mths imp (cum on Supreme Court and Magistrates Court sentences). Ct 9: 6 mths imp (conc). Ct 10: 3 mths imp (conc). Ct 11: 3 mths imp (cum). Ct 12: 21 mths imp (cum). Ct 13: 15 mths imp (conc). Ct 14: 2 yrs imp (conc). Ct 15: 9 mths imp (conc).</p> <p>Sentenced in the Supreme Court, District Court and the Magistrates Court for a total of 36 offences. The most serious offences, were committed in a period of about three wks. The result of the three sentencing exercises:</p> <p>TES 9 yrs 6 mths imp. EFP.</p> <p><u>Indictment - Supreme</u> The trial judge found the armed robbery objectively very serious; the offence was planned; both offenders were armed and disguised; they chose a vulnerable target and threatened two vulnerable women, both shouting and screaming.</p> <p>The trial judge took into account time spent by the appellant on remand for the murder charge and time already spent in protective</p>	<p>Dismissed (leave refused) – on papers.</p> <p><u>Indictment - Supreme</u> Appeal concerned length of sentence and totality principle.</p> <p><u>Magistrate Court</u> Appeal concerned totality principles and error (allowing summary charges to not be dealt with by superior court).</p> <p><u>Indictment - District</u> Appeal concern error in cum sentences; totality principle (crushing effect of accumulated sentences from different jurisdictions) and error (plea discount).</p> <p>At [54] The Supreme Court judge was called upon to sentence the appellant only for two offences: ... It was well open to her Honour to order a degree of accumulation between [the] two offences, bearing in mind that they involved distinct criminality and had different victims.</p> <p>At [56] What occurred in the District Court, mths after the Supreme Court judge imposed sentence, does not (and cannot) provide any basis to allege an infringement of either limb of the totality principle by the Supreme Court judge’s sentence. ...</p> <p>At [83] ... we are satisfied that there is no reason to suppose that, had the summary offences, and the indictable offences all been dealt with together, the overall disposition would have been any more favourable from the appellant’s perspective. ... the sentencing judge in the District Court was acutely aware of, and carefully weighed, the sentences that had already been imposed ... in determining what sentences should be imposed for the offences dealt with in the District Court.</p> <p>At [87]-[88] In our view, the appellant’s offending conduct that was the subject of his sentence in the Magistrates Court was of a nature and extent that demanded a sentence that was cum on the sentence in the Supreme Court to a not insubstantial extent. ... Not is it reasonably arguable that the sentences imposed by the Chief Magistrate produced a result that was, in the relevant sense, crushing, so as to infringe the second limb of the totality principle. ...</p> <p>At [117]-[119] The appellant was sentenced in the District Court for 15 offences. Several of them involved appalling offending that would have terrified or endangered members of the public. Further, [he] used violence to escape from legal custody. ... the appellant’s offending the subject of cts 7 – 12 of itself would ordinarily have justified and required a TES substantially higher than the TES ... imposed ... in the District Court. As the judge observed, cts 11 and 12 were each very serious offences in which the appellant used violence towards entirely</p>

		<p>Entrenched drug use.</p>	<p>at her to put the phone away and pointed his knife at her, telling her that he would stab her.</p> <p>The co-offender grabbed the till drawer and took about \$450 in cash before running. Brooks pushed the daughter off balance and followed.</p> <p>When Brooks was chased by two men, he stopped and threatened one of them with his knife.</p> <p>Brooks hid some items of clothing in an att to avoid being caught. He was arrested some wks later. He denied any involvement in the offence.</p> <p><u>Indictment – District Court</u> Brooks drove a stolen truck up to the double gates of a business. After trying to break the padlock to the gates with bolt cutters, he att to smash through them with the truck. The gates and the linked chain fence were extensively damaged (ct 1).</p> <p>Brooks drove a stolen truck to the entry of a business. After cutting the lock to a gate he drove to a parked caravan valued at \$45,000 and hitched the caravan to the back of his vehicle. As he drove away the chain snapped, so he left, leaving the caravan behind (ct 2).</p> <p>At a car wash Brooks, driving the same stolen truck, reversed at speed into two industrial vacuum units causing \$29,358.20 in damage. He and his male passenger then att unsuccessfully to take one of the units. They left and returned a short time later with a chisel and hammer, which they used to separate one of the units from its base. They then carried it to the truck and left (cts 3 and 4).</p> <p>During a burglary, a dinghy, boat trailer, boat engine and a fuel jerry can were stolen.</p>	<p>custody, and would in the future serve, for the current offending.</p> <p>Letter of apology tendered; otherwise no demonstrated genuine remorse; not at a low risk of reoffending; reasonable prospects of rehabilitation; steps taken to become a better father while on remand.</p> <p><u>Indictment – District</u> The sentencing judge found the appellant’s offending the subject of cts 1-4 serious and premeditated acts of dishonesty; it would have been a terrifying experience for the victims of cts 11 and 12, were ordinary members of the community going about their daily business; the offending necessitated a sentence that sufficiently denounced the appellant’s conduct and provided appropriate personal and general deterrence.</p>	<p>innocent members of the public in an att to steal their cars, the second att of which was successful. ... Other elements of the appellant’s offending were also serious. ... the two home burglaries, ... were both serious offences warranting substantial terms of imp.</p> <p>At [126] ... the [District Court] judge did not err in failing to award a 25% discount for the appellant’s PG. Indeed, it was not open to the judge to have done so.</p>
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		<p>phone line and searched a bedroom. He left the premises by forcing open a rear window. No items were stolen (ct 13).</p> <p>On the same day Brooks broke into a different residence. The occupants were home at the time. Manipulating a locked door he entered the premises and stole an iPhone, a laptop and the keys to a vehicle. Using the car keys he stole the occupants vehicle. He was later seen by police driving the vehicle and failed to stop when requested to do so, leading to a police pursuit (cts 14-15).</p>		
<i>Transitional provisions repealed (14/01/2009)</i>				
<i>Maximum penalty s 318, other than those falling within s 318(1)(l), reduced to 7 yrs imp (27/04/2008)</i>				
<i>Transitional Provisions Enacted (31/08/2003)</i>				
<i>Maximum penalty for s 318 increased from 5 yrs to 10 yrs imp (20/01/1995)</i>				

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions