

January 31, 1967

Director, Law Division
American Medical Association
535 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Sir:

During the past few months I have participated in the defense of a criminal convicted of a capital crime and have been asked to give opinions regarding the influence of the administration of psychoactive compounds during imprisonment and immediately prior to trial on the prisoner's behavior.

The questions that were asked were primarily whether psychoactive compounds could so alter the behavior of a prisoner so that a psychiatric examination could come with a determination of sanity, when indeed abnormal behavior was prominent without medication.

The second question was whether the administration of psychoactive compounds could so alter the memory of the defendant so that he was unable to properly defend himself during the trial.

While I have already given testimony regarding my opinion, I believe the issues go beyond the immediate case and am writing to request your advice as to any other reports which may be available regarding the questions involved. For clarification, I am enclosing an outline of the case record, summarizing the salient features as presented to me.

I would be most grateful for your advice as to how to proceed further in order to investigate this problem.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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