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Michelle Carter V. Commonwealth

Introduction

There are certain cases that have the capacity to capture the imagination of the general public. One of such cases was the Commonwealth vs Michelle Carter, which gained considerable coverage at the national level. One of the reasons that the extensive coverage was being given to the case was due to the fact that how it played out. It involved the suicide of the Conrad Henri, an 18-year-old male as he was encouraged into taking his life. The encouragement came from his long-distance girlfriend, Michelle Carter, who was made to be the subject of the investigation during the course of this case. The case become a major headline grabber across the United States as it was known as the texting suicide case. In this paper, it is going to be argued that even though there needs to be investigation against Carter for encouraging him for the suicide, the eventual blame of the whole case must fall on Carter. he case raised complex questions about criminal responsibility.

History of Henri Carter

If one looks at the mental health history of Carter, it becomes very clear that all was not right with him. He was suffering from depression and hosts of the other mental healthcare issues and the way these issues were being handled, there were long term problems in terms of the way long term complex questions were being responded to at the given point of time. There were several instances where he had showed his willingness to die and it went on to show that he was in need for help, which should have been coming from the community but that was not the case this time around. This was not the only issue that was faced by him, it can be seen that he was also suffering from anxiety and due to that, he had a hard time making sure that he went into school. Even though he was counselled by different therapists, the problem became worsened with the passage of time.

Role of Consent

Even though the argument can be made that how Michelle was the one that should have supported him and would have pursued him to get a better life, the argument can be made that how he was an adult who was at the age of consent. At this age, he would have a fair insight about what are going to be some of the social groups that he should have been involved in and effort was needed to be made by him to make sure that how he was able to get his life back on track. Instead of doing that, he was always trying to stay aloof and when he got into a relationship, he got involved in a situation where the girl he got into relationship was not mentally fit enough to provide him with good insight. Carter was convicted by a judge of involuntary manslaughter, who stated this was due specifically to a final text in which Carter told Roy to get back in his truck, which was filling with carbon monoxide, when he became scared.

Conclusion

In the hindsight, it can be said that the case is difficult to comprehend due to the fact that how the encouragement came from Michelle in the form of the text messages. Here it can be seen that there is no threat of the physical violence that came on her part, and instead it is all about how the consent was witnessed in the given case at the particular point of time. So, all these things are needed to be kept in mind when analysis of this case is carried out.