

## Psychopathy

- A wide spectrum of expression – from cold, calculating killers through ruthless empire builders in business and successful entrepreneurs, to office wheeler-dealers who leave chaos in their wake
- Charming, convincing, calculating, self-interested, lying, risk-taking lone wolves. Perceive victims as being to blame for what happens to them, enjoy cruelty, lack empathy but know how to manipulate people's emotions. Easily bored, need to be in control & admired for cleverness
- Often manifests in childhood with a triad of disorders – cruelty to animals, fire setting, bed wetting
- May be genetic but seems to require exposure to violence or abuse in childhood for full expression
- Distinguished from Narcissism by lack of concern for what others think

### From *PsychCentral's* Psychopathy Quiz

1. Most would describe me as charming and nonchalant -- I can turn my charm on and off like a faucet.

2. I do what I want, when I want, the moment the impulse strikes me, regardless of what others want.

3. If something goes wrong or turns out badly, it's not my fault.

4. I've gotten into legal or criminal trouble as an adult (not just a speeding or parking ticket).

5. I am easily the best at what I do, bar none -- nobody could ever take my place.

6. I do whatever I feel like doing, and I don't care what others think -- or even if it's illegal.

7. Every person for themselves; I don't see the point in feeling sorry for other people and have no desire to help others.

8. I've gotten into legal or criminal trouble when I was a teenager (not just a speeding or parking ticket).

9. I have no problem or concern in lying in order to get what I want.

10. "Live in the moment" is what I say; the future will take care of itself and learning from your past is pointless.

11. I never feel remorse, shame or guilt about something I've said or done.

12. I don't see the point in taking on responsibilities of any kind -- they just weigh you down.

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Based upon the research of Cleckley (1988), Hare (1991) and Steadman et al. (2000).

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