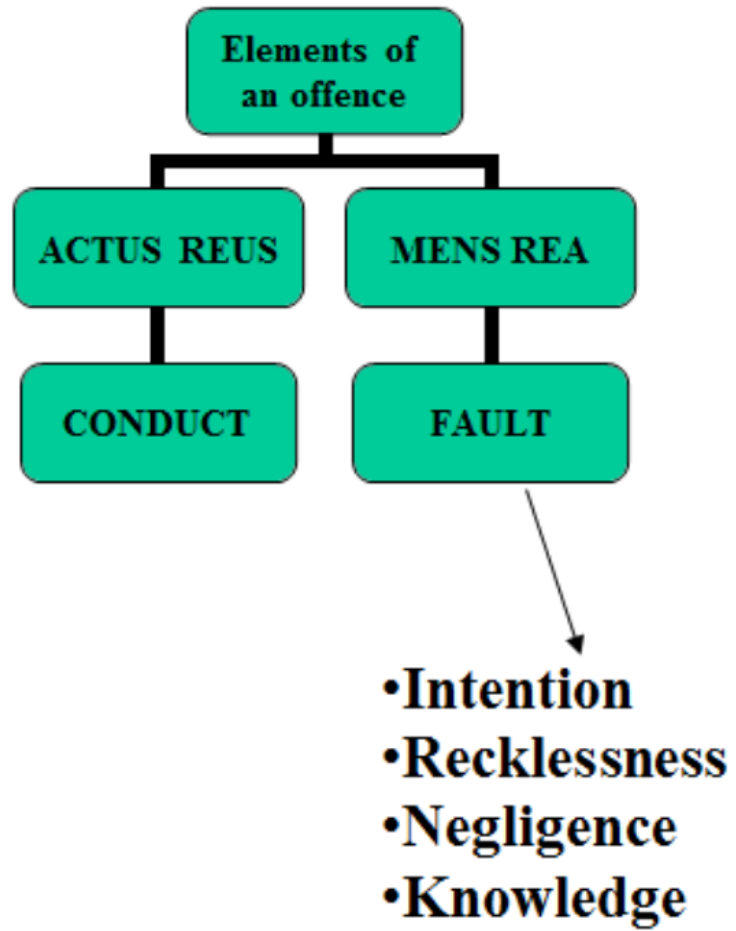




Criminal Law

Presentation 6, Lert Ahmeti and Luana Deva



https://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/01/aaron_hernandez_murder_trial_w.html

Theory

mens rea

- subjective elements
- exception: strict liability



actus reus

- objective elements



The Components of a Criminal Offence



Conduct
element (*actus
reus*)

Consequence
element
(causation)



Circumstance
element (\approx part
of *mens rea*)



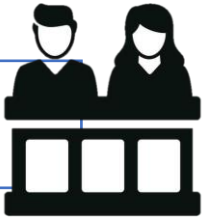
Fault element
(*mens rea*)

The Components of a Criminal Offence

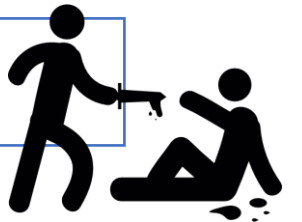
Motive and Intention



Factual Issues



Strict Liability



Conduct and Consequence



Aaron Hernandez Case Overview



Source: New York Times

- Former NFL player
- Odin Lloyd murdered on June 17, 2013, near Hernandez's home
- Hernandez arrested on June 26, 2013, charged with first-degree murder
- Convicted on April 15, 2015 → life in prison without parole
- Died by suicide on April 19, 2017
- Conviction later vacated due to *abatement ab initio*

Applying Criminal Law Theory to the Aaron Hernandez Case

Actus Reus – Conduct element

- Lloyd was shot

Causation – Consequence element

- Lloyd died from the gunshots

Part of Mens Rea – Circumstance element

- Surveillance + vehicle evidence place Hernandez in the events
- Late-night pickup and isolated location
- Messages show Hernandez was aware of the situation

Mens Rea – Fault element

- First-degree murder requires intentional killing
- Planning, coordination, and cover-up behavior support intentional killing

COMMONWEALTH v. HERNANDEZ (2019)

Issue

- After Hernandez's 2017 death, his murder conviction was vacated under *abatement ab initio*.

2019 Decision

- Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court reinstated the conviction.
- Ruled that *abatement ab initio* no longer applies in the state.

Reasoning

- Vacating verdicts erases jury decisions and harms victims' rights.
- Courts prioritise finality and recognition of convictions.

Outcome

- Hernandez's conviction returned to the record, though his appeal stayed unresolved.
- Doctrine of *abatement ab initio* abolished going forward.

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KILLER INSIDE:
**THE MIND OF
AARON HERNANDEZ**

Personal Suggestion