

## Antisocial Personality Disorder

### Definition

Antisocial personality disorder, sometimes called sociopathy, is a mental disorder in which a person consistently shows no regard for right and wrong and ignores the rights and feelings of others. People with antisocial personality disorder tend to antagonize, manipulate or treat others harshly or with callous indifference. They show no guilt or remorse for their behavior.

### Symptoms

Antisocial personality disorder signs and symptoms may include:

- Disregard for right and wrong
- Persistent lying or deceit to exploit others
- Being callous, cynical and disrespectful of others
- Using charm or wit to manipulate others for personal gain or personal pleasure
- Arrogance, a sense of superiority and being extremely opinionated
- Recurring problems with the law, including criminal behavior
- Repeatedly violating the rights of others through intimidation and dishonesty
- Impulsiveness or failure to plan ahead
  - Poor or abusive relationships
  - Failure to consider the negative consequences of behavior or learn from them
  - Being consistently irresponsible and repeatedly failing to fulfill work or financial obligations

Although antisocial personality disorder is considered lifelong, in some people, certain symptoms — particularly destructive and criminal behavior — may decrease over time. But it's not clear whether this decrease is a result of aging or an increased awareness of the consequences of antisocial behavior.

### Causes

The exact cause of antisocial personality disorder isn't known, but:

- Genes may make you vulnerable to developing antisocial personality disorder — and life situations may trigger its development
- Changes in the way the brain functions may have resulted during brain development