

## Hinder Investigation

s.315 (NSW) *Crimes Act*

s 315 do anything intending in any way to hinder:

- (a) the investigation of a serious indictable offence committed by another person, or
- (b) the discovery of evidence concerning a serious indictable offence committed by another person, or
- (c) the apprehension of another person who has committed a serious indictable offence,

**Maximum Penalty:** 7 years.

	Case (age if known)	Offence	Offence Concealed	Plea	Sentence	Appeal	Record	Facts
1.	<b>Skinner</b> <a href="#">[2000] NSWSC 303</a> G.James J	s.315(1)(a)	Murder	PG	3y GBB			Female – attempted to conceal involvement of brother and lover in killing committed during robbery – efforts actually assisted crown Delay – interstate resident
2.	<b>Richmond</b> (26) <a href="#">[2000] NSWCCA 173</a>	s.315(1)(a)	Dangerous driving causing death	PG	300h CSO	Crown AD	Minor	Falsely stated he was driver of car involved in fatal accident – attempting to conceal affair with female driver – made false statement which was never accepted by police Depression and suffering after effects of accident – good work circumstances
3.	<b>Bradley</b> (28) <a href="#">[2002] NSWSC 1018</a> Bell J	s.315(1)(b)	Mal wound with intent	VG	2y GBB (8w PSC)		Minor – no gaol	Observed friend shoot male stranger in park – unaware shooting fatal – carried bag containing gun and participated in concealment in bushes – no planning or sophistication – offence committed over less than two hours Delay – low intellect

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4.	<b>Derbas</b> (25) <a href="#">[2003] NSWCCA 44</a>	s.315(1)(b)	Murder	PG	5y NPP 3y		'Not minor' – including GIC offences and possess unlicensed firearm	While stopped at traffic lights passenger unexpectedly alighted from car and shot dead strangers arguing on street – upon returning home arranged for car to be hidden and cleaned then moved to second location and reported stolen – deprived police of important evidence - acted out of misguided loyalty to friend – no substantial pre-meditation – towards top end of scale Married with child On appeal: sentence not manifestly excessive in view of seriousness of offence and lack of subjective mitigating factors
5.	<b>Lawrence</b> (42) <a href="#">[2004] NSWCCA 404</a>	s.315(1)(a)  s.94  Sched: Affray	Assault	PG (25% on appeal)	5y NPP 3y  FT 2y (concurrent)	AA 2y 6m NPP 6m  FT 2y  Total: 4y 6m NPP 2y 6m	Very significant record – breached bail	Female- watched mentally ill de facto bash male neighbour – stole milk and phone – lied to police about injuries to de facto
6.	<b>Hamze</b> (28) <a href="#">[2005] NSWSC 136</a> Howie J	s.315(1)(b)  Possess prohibited firearm  Sched 3 x firearm offences	Manslaughter	PG (25%)	27m NPP 18m  FT 6m  Total: 2y 9m NPP 2y PD		Nil	Male shot dead during confrontation between two groups – took and concealed firearm found at scene – turned in weapon to police 6 months later – not weapon used to fire fatal shot – investigation generally hampered by reluctance of witnesses – unplanned Good character - delay
7.	<b>Ahmad</b> (30) <a href="#">[2005] NSWSC 848</a> Howie J	s.315(1)(c)	Manslaughter	PG (20%)	9m suspended		Nil	Female - male shot dead by husband during confrontation between two groups – lied to police about husband's whereabouts – provided needs and advised as to police investigations – premeditated and extended period of offending Sole carer for three children – good character

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8.	<b>Ibrahim</b> (37) <a href="#">[2005] NSWSC 1028</a> Howie J	s.315(1)(a)	Manslaughter	PG (20%)	17m NPP 12m suspended		Priors	Male shot dead during confrontation between two groups – assisted in hiding shooter over 1 month – delay compromised investigation – conduct at lower end of scale
9.	<b>Mobbs</b> (21) <a href="#">[2005] NSWCCA 371</a>	s.315(1)(a)	Dangerous driving causing death	PG	15m NPP 12m	AA FT 4m	Record	Passenger in car involved in fatal accident – told police and medical staff he was driver – did not want driver to lose licence – no benefit – acting in state of shock – advised police of circumstances next day <i>De Simoni</i> error made
10.	<b>Mobbs</b> <a href="#">[2005] NSWCCA 438</a>	s.315(1)(a)	Dangerous driving causing death	PG	15m NPP 12m PD	AA 6m 11d PD		Female – supported cousin’s statement that he was driver of car – injured in accident – signed police statement at hospital – quickly recanted Mother to small child – factual errors made on sentence
11.	<b>Bailey</b> (33) <a href="#">[2006] NSWSC 49</a> Buddin J	s.315(1)(c)  s.315(1)(a)	Murder	PG (25%)	8m NPP 4m 8d  FT 2m (concurrent)		No gaol	Female – acquired accommodation for de facto husband and lied to police on arrest – aware de facto involved in fatal assault on one man and serious assault on second man – awkward position Seven children – remorse – good prospects of rehabilitation
12.	<b>Grant</b> (34) <a href="#">[2012] NSWSC 1491</a> Bellew J	s.315(1)(b)	Murder	PG	12m suspended		nil	Female - aware partner involved in murder – advised partner on disposing of property linking him to murder – did not herself dispose of property – did not hinder police investigation – towards bottom of spectrum Mother to six children
13.	<b>Weston</b> (33) <a href="#">[2012] NSWSC 1498</a> Bellew J	s.315(1)(c)	Murder	PG	12m suspended		nil	Female - aware partner involved in murder – lied to police on one occasion (Christmas Day) about presence in house – spontaneous and isolated occurrence – did not hinder police investigation Sole carer to two children with additional needs – good character – intellectual impairment
14.	<b>Slacke</b> (35) <a href="#">[2013] NSWSC 1215</a> RA Hulme J	s.315(1)(c)	Inflict GBH with intent	PG	2y GBB		lengthy	Boyfriend broke into home of male friend of female offender and bashed occupant causing severe head injuries – offender found body and contacted police - after removal of body offender attended house with boyfriend – delayed police in attempt to enter house allowing boyfriend to evade apprehension for short time – lower level of seriousness Drug problem – in violent relationship with boyfriend

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15.	<b>Sampson</b> (28) <a href="#">[2014] NSWCCA 19</a>	s.315(1)(b)	Murder	PG (25%)	3y NPP 18m	s.10A (would have imposed 12m suspended sentence but already served 11m custody)	record	Driving with de facto (S) of male charged with murder of police officer – when S advised police were intending to execute crime scene warrant at house instructed son of S by telephone to hide bullets – acting on behalf of S – police intercepted call and not actually hindered in investigation Female aboriginal – deprived and violent childhood – drug abuse
16.	<b>Smith</b> (30) <a href="#">[2017] NSWSC 900</a> Button J	s.315(1)(b)	Murder	PG (15%)	1y 3m NPP 8m		Lengthy – Local Court – breached bail for deriving disqual	Approached by girlfriend who indicated she had stabbed someone – buried knife and other items and assisted girlfriend wash herself of blood – lied to police – when learned victim had died told truth – spontaneous – offence extended over one day – motivated by love for girlfriend Remorse Sentence partially concurrent with sentence imposed for cannabis plantation discovered by police when investigating burial of knife
17.	<b>Thomas</b> (28) <a href="#">[2017] NSWSC 1542</a> Harrison J	s.315(1)(a)		PG	Recording of conviction (6m PSC)		traffic offences	Several men seen on CCTV alighting from offender's car and chasing male into house – neither car nor male seen since incident - offender lied to police at request of friends advising car had been stolen – plea accepted in satisfaction of indictment which also charged accessory after the fact to murder – no suggestion involved in incident – lowest level of offending Spent 6m 8d on remand for accessory offence
18.	<b>King</b> (35) <a href="#">[2018] NSWSC 643</a> N.Adams J	s.315(1)(a)	Murder	PG (12%)	3y 4m NPP 2y 4m (immediate eligibility for parole)		minor traffic offences	Female – involved in planning to clean up scene of killing in hotel room over several days – retrieved revolver and extended booking of room – not spontaneous offence – limited hindrance to investigation – lied to police – acted to protect boyfriend (not shooter) Good prospects of rehabilitation - remorse
19.	<b>Kelecki</b> (32) <a href="#">[2018] NSWSC 1209</a> N.Adams J	s.315(1)(b)	murder	PG (15%)	11m NPP 7y		short – driving and breach AVO – awaiting sentence for drug offences	Advised by friend male he had shot victim in leg – assisted shooter by disposing of jumper in nearby bin several days later – low degree of planning – motivated by desire to distance self from situation – lower end of scale – less serious than involvement of <i>King</i> [2018] NSWSC 643 Assaulted in gaol – genuine contrition – reasonable prospects of rehabilitation

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20.	<b>Ferris (a pseudonym)</b> (54) <a href="#">[2020] NSWCCA 325</a>	s.315(1)(a)  Access after the fact to manslaughter  Sched: Steal copper pipes	Accessory after the fact to manslaughter	PG (40% combined)	<u>Indicative:</u> 1y 6m  2y 6m  <u>Aggregate:</u> 2y 10m NPP 1y 6m	AD	Record – breached bail at time of offending	Present in industrial area with two men preparing to steal copper piping – heard one male strike other male to head causing fracture and immediate unconsciousness – left area with assailant after unsuccessful attempt to revive victim – returned to pick up tools and again left victim – assailant returned to conceal body – took steps to conceal involvement – lied to police – 8 months after arrest wrote to partner to dissuade her from making statement to police Drug user – genuine contrition – assistance
21.	<b>Zahed</b> (34; 40 at sentence) <a href="#">[2024] NSWSC 231</a> (Button J)	s.315	Murder	PG (5%)	3y 6m NPP 2y 4m		Maliciously cause dog to inflict ABH, maliciously inflict GBH, discharge firearm intent GBH. On parole.	No persons convicted of homicide of deceased - deceased assaulted in his motor vehicle and shot at close range – offender's brother charged with minor offence - offender and A took possession of deceased's motor vehicle, cleaned blood - offender directed A to dispose permanently of vehicle - motivation was desire to protect brother - vehicle failed to be destroyed by fire - police examination rendered less effective because of damage to vehicle - actions and orders of offender made police investigation difficult. Leading role - organising mind - member of well-known motorcycle gang. Mitigating features - fatal shooting of brother - near fatal shooting of offender a few months prior to offence – suffered significant physical injuries - psychological conditions - extremely restricted conditions of custody. Prospects of rehabilitation unclear - special circumstances.

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