

(Continued)

never “planned” on raping Darlene. Rather, he stated that it was more of an impulsive act—in the “spur of the moment.” He had no ill feelings toward Darlene; in fact, Ian stated that “he had no feelings toward her whatsoever.”

One theoretical perspective that could possibly be applied to this offense is Bowlby’s attachment theory. Due to Ian’s unstable childhood, he was unable to form healthy attachments, especially with

his mother. Further, these attachments lacked specificity given the various foster homes he was placed in throughout childhood. Related to this, the attachments lacked duration; they were short-lived and sporadic, at best. The problems associated with Ian establishing healthy attachments in childhood were reflected during his adulthood. He had difficulty developing strong relationships, especially with women. This may also have

contributed to his ability to rape by perceiving the victim as having “little or no psychological meaning.”

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Are there any other essential features of Bowlby’s theory that could apply to Ian’s behavior?
2. What approaches could be implemented to enhance Ian’s relationships, especially with women?