

States of Mind

Law

The mental states the criminal law distinguishes.

State of mind and meaning.

State	Means
Direct intention	It was the aim or purpose
Oblique intention	Virtually certain, and appreciated as such
Recklessness	Aware of a risk and took it unreasonably
Negligence	Fell below the reasonable standard
Strict liability	No mental element required

Educational reference. Motive is why someone acted; intention is what they meant to bring about. Only the latter is usually an element.