Assignment

Subject: Jurisprudence

Topic

1. Difference between Motive and Intention

Submitted to

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Semester: 5th

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Date of Submission:
April 02, 2026

University Name: Lahore leads university

Q#1 Different between motive and intention

1. Introduction

In legal and moral philosophy, the terms Motive and Intention are often used interchangeably in casual conversation. However, in a professional or legal context, they represent two distinct concepts. Understanding the boundary between them is crucial for determining liability and moral culpability.

2. Conceptual Definitions

A. Intention

Intention refers to the immediate purpose or the "will" to bring about a specific result. It is the conscious decision to perform an act while being aware of its likely consequences.

Key Question: What did the person do and what was the intended result?

B. Motive

Motive is the underlying reason or the "ulterior objective" that induces a person to act. It explains the "why" behind the intention. Motive is usually irrelevant in determining legal guilt, though it may influence the severity of a sentence.

Key Question: Why did the person want to achieve that result?

Feature
🌺Definition: the objective or
Intention : the object or means used to reach an end

Motive : the moving power that impels action
🌺Focus:
Intention Focuses on the what

Motive Focuses on the why

🌺Legal Relevance
Intention : essential for Proving most crimes

Motive : Generally irrelevant for proving guilt
🌺Sequence
Intention: it is immediate act of the mind

Motive : it preceded the intention
🌺example

Intention : pulling a trigger to fire a bullet
Motive : seeking or revenge wanting money

4. Detailed Examples

To clarify these concepts, consider the following scenarios:

Example 1: The "Mercy" Case
The Act: A person provides a lethal dose of medication to a terminally ill relative who is in extreme pain.

Intention: The intention is to cause death. The person knows that the medication will end the relative's life and chooses to administer it.

Motive: The motive is compassion or mercy. They want to end the relative's suffering.

Legal Reality: In many jurisdictions, the person is still guilty of a crime because the intention (to kill) was present, regardless of how "good" the motive (mercy) was.

Example 2: The Theft
The Act: A man steals a loaf of bread from a grocery store.

Intention: The intention is to permanently deprive the store of the bread without paying.

Motive:
The motive is hunger or the desire to feed his starving children.

Legal Reality:
The man is guilty of theft because his intention was to steal. While a judge might be lenient because of his motive, the crime is still technically committed.

Example 3
The Charity Donation
The Act: A wealthy businessman donates $1,000,000 to a hospital.

Intention:

The intention is to transfer funds to the hospital.

Motive:
The motive might be political gain or improving his public image.

Reality:
The act is seen as "good" because the intention was to help the hospital, even if the motive was selfish.

5. Conclusion

While Intention is the state of mind regarding the act itself and its immediate consequences, Motive is the ultimate reason for the act. In the eyes of the law, a "bad" motive cannot make a legal act illegal, and a "good" motive cannot make an illegal act legal.