

An essential resource that provides the tools and concepts to assist legal researchers in pursuing liability issues in the courts following suicide...

SUICIDE AND THE LAW

Cases, Theories and Strategies for Prevention

By James Selkin, Ph.D.

Users will find this work to be a handy guide to a number of court cases and legal issues involving suicide. The chapters are clearly defined and an alphabetical index makes researching particularly easy.

Following the tragic death of actress Marilyn Monroe in 1969, a new concept in psychiatry emerged in the United States. "Psychological autopsies" —investigations to reconstruct the state of mind of the deceased just prior to his or her death—originated in the Los Angeles County Coroner's office, garnering world notice as the media spotlight blazed on the investigation into the death of the American icon.

These psychological autopsies would evolve into a form of expert testimony by a "suicidologist" that would have a significant impact on the rulings of a multitude of criminal and civil court cases into the next century. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1993 determined the admissibility of such expert testimony fell within the Federal Rules of Evidence, thus sparking a growth in the field.

In this work, Dr. Selkin gives the facts surrounding specific court cases where expert testimony helped bring about the desired outcome, as well as with those that were not successful. Though suicide is the common factor in all cases discussed, they vary greatly, ranging from the suicide of a person involved in a workers compensation case, to one in which a parent was charged with child abuse following the child's suicide, with others leading to charges of malpractice.

Social scientists will find this book useful, also, for its wealth of information on the legal aspects to a societal problem and for its agenda to investigate the causes of and enhance the prevention of suicide.

An important work to enhance your library's medico-legal collection!

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1 volume

Item #13103 ISBN 0-8377-3708-7

Pages: ix, 135 pp.

Published: Buffalo; William S. Hein & Co., Inc.; 2005

Cost of Carriage Not Included; New York State, Colorado State and GST Taxes Where Applicable

WILLIAM S. HEIN & CO., INC.

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E-Mail marketing@wshein.com ~ Web Site www.wshein.com