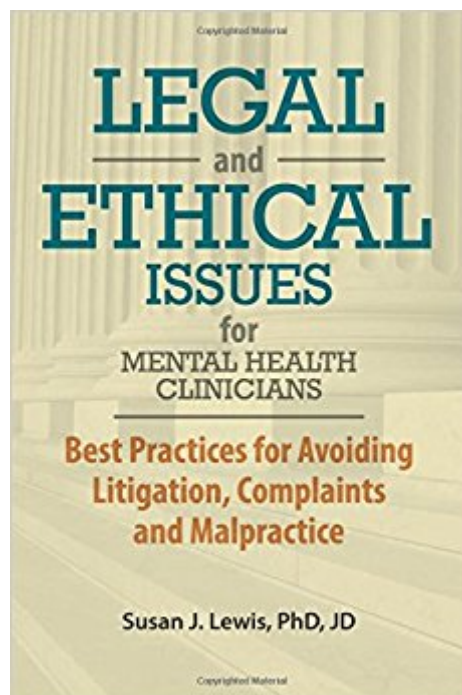


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# Legal And Ethical Issues For Mental Health Clinicians: Best Practices For Avoiding Litigation, Complaints And Malpractice



## Synopsis

Psychologist and attorney Susan J Lewis, PhD, JD, brings her 25 years of clinical practice and legal expertise directly to you - with practical guidance, strategies, solutions and up-to-date information to help keep you out of court and jail. Dr. Lewis uses easy-to-understand language to step you through the legalese, highlighted by 30 engaging case examples to illustrate how you can overcome legal and ethical challenges that arise in your practice, including: -Risk management -Contracts -HIPPA -Privileged communication -Licensing complaints -Supervision pitfalls -Rights of minors -Technology This go-to resource goes beyond the what and why, focusing on how to protect you and your clients in an increasingly litigious society.

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## Customer Reviews

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Susan J. Lewis, Ph.D., J.D., is a multi-credentialed mental health professional, with the unique

combination as a licensed psychologist, forensic psychologist, and attorney. She has 25 years of experience in clinical practice with unique populations who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness. In addition to her clinical practice, she has served in leadership roles as clinical director and program manager, supervisor for psychiatry residents and post-doctoral psychology interns. Dr. Lewis is a sought after consultant, working with attorneys on controversial issues such as dangerousness, competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility evaluations, and civil and criminal commitment. As a national seminar instructor, she trains hundreds of mental health clinicians each year about legal and ethical issues.

Excellent book to get you thinking about various aspects of the law and mental health. Since this is not written to any specific state you will have to do some work and look up the laws in your state and the ethical guidelines for your specific area of practice. This had some excellent information regarding informed consent. I developed a better idea of steps I need to take to protect myself and the client.

Some new info abs some reinforcements on practicing in mental health and the law. I am a psych np and found it helpful.

Dr Lewis, PhD, JD gives the clinician an overall synopsis of the various roles/responsibilities of mental health providers and legal risks/pitfalls associated with those roles and responsibilities. The book helps a provider take an overall assessment of his/her practice, to determine the areas where one might have become more lax or might have overlooked some important protections, such as developing a more comprehensive informed consent and more thorough progress notes. As an attorney and a mental health provider, she is able to blend the worlds of law and mental health easily and in an simple to digest manner. This book is useful for those just entering the field and is a great review for those of us who have been practicing for some time. It is a guidepost to shore up one's practice, further protecting oneself from civil suits and board complaints. If you ever get a chance to take one of her PESI workshops, she is an excellent presenter as well.

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