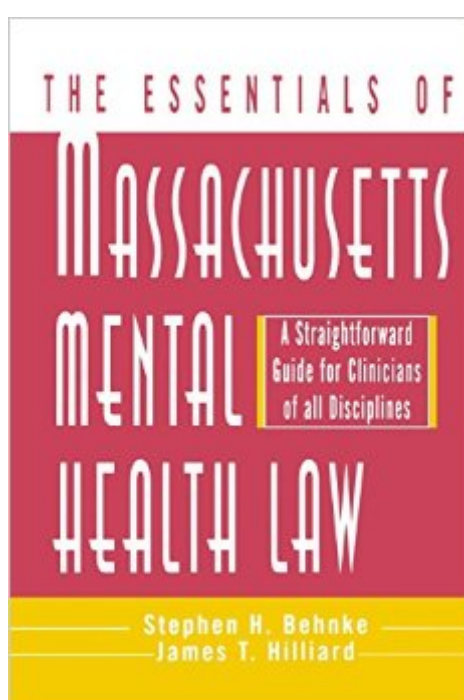


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# The Essentials Of Massachusetts Mental Health Law: A Straightforward Guide For Clinicians Of All Disciplines (The Essentials Of Series)



## Synopsis

This series arose from Stephen Behnke's experience teaching psychiatric residents, psychology interns, and social work students at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center. Trainees consistently mentioned how helpful it was to have laws relevant to their clinical practice explained in a way that removed the mystery and anxiety associated with lawyers, courts, and judges. Each volume in the series sets forth, in a clear, straightforward, and user-friendly manner, pertinent legislation and court cases, covering why the law was written, what the law says, and how the law affects clinical practice.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book, one of a series on mental health law in different states, should be required reading for every practicing mental health clinician. First in a narrative section and then in a question-and-answer format, the book covers key aspects of the law (civil commitment, guardianship, confidentiality, subpoenas, consultation, criminal issues, liability and record-keeping) that are relevant to, and affect, clinical practice. It covers these issues with thoughtfulness, elegant writing and with empathy and respect for the reader. And, it makes the law alive, vital and exciting. Reading it is like listening to a very intelligent conversation that explains how the law understands, and supports, the work we do and invites us to think about the process of meetings its standards. Although focused on Massachusetts law, I suspect that the book could also be helpful to

clinicians from other areas because the issues addressed cut across state lines. The book teaches us about the law while weaving a story about the way the law interacts with, and informs, clinical practice. The book also shows us how the law has broadened the context of clinical practice to take the public welfare into account. The book teaches clinicians how to think about legal and ethical conflicts, how to approach these dilemmas in an intelligent way and how to protect ourselves from legal violations. For instance, the section on the landmark Tarasoff decision, which has affected practice in every state, covers the California decision in detail, the way it has been modified to fit mental health practice in Massachusetts and how it gets played out in actual practice. This book is an important reference work that clinicians will want to consult often as a very readable guide to ethically and legally sound practice. I recommend it highly

This book was great. Easy to read and actually enjoyable. Very well written. I bought it to study for the Massachusetts Jurisprudence Exam and unfortunately, I failed the exam by one item! It wasn't the book's fault but if you're studying for that exam the book isn't enough.

I have used this book on many occasions as a psych nurse...but recently was embarrassed by quoting a fact that later I learned was wrong because a law that is cited has been changed since 1998. This book needs updating!

Bought this to study for the MA Psychology Jurisprudence exam. It was incredibly helpful in understanding and learning the law. Terrific summaries and tables - I will keep this handy for future reference.

It had a lot of notes from the previous owner. It was a tough read through their notes and markings.

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