



Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy

By Charles H. Huber

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This book offers a wealth of up-to-date coverage geared to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy standards. With its practical focus and planned, concise coverage, the book ensures readers gain both a theoretical background and an applications orientation. An entire chapter is devoted to exploring contemporary ethical issues for which no formal precedent has yet been established. In addition, there are numerous case studies, and discussions of the differences between MFT as a distinct profession and MFT as a professional subspecialty. In each of the three major sections, chapters address “general” issues, as well as issues specific to marriage and family therapy. A concluding chapter in each section offers case illustrations that expand upon the material covered in the previous chapter. This two-step presentation helps learners attain a greater understanding of how information is used in actual practice...and helps them more effectively internalize instruction. For marriage and family counselors.

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Editorial Review

Review

"...This work best reflects what is required in the COAMFTE/AAMFT accreditation standards..."

Volker Thomas, Purdue University

"...offers the best coverage (regarding) MFT practices as well as an excellent introduction to administrative law."

Peter Sherrard, University of Florida

From the Publisher

The Second Edition, updated to incorporate the latest AAMFT Code of Ethics, offers a wealth of updated coverage, all geared to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy standards. There are numerous new case studies, and new discussions of the differences between MFT as a distinct profession and MFT as a professional subspecialty. In addition, a completely new chapter explores contemporary ethical issues for which no formal precedent has yet been established. With its practical focus and planned, concise coverage, the book ensures students to gain both a theoretical background and an applications orientation. In each of the three major sections, chapters address "general" issues, as well as issues specific to marriage and family therapy. A concluding chapter in each section offers case illustrations that expand upon the material covered in the previous chapter. This two-step presentation helps students attain a greater understanding of how information is used in actual practice...and helps them more effectively internalize instruction.

From the Inside Flap

Preface

Although less than 100 years old, professional psychotherapy has become a major influence in society. Therapists contribute to and considerably affect many aspects of modern life. During this time, psychotherapy has broadened its perspective. No longer is it practiced exclusively on a one-therapist-to-one-client basis. Group therapy efforts have become commonplace in almost every mental health setting. Likewise, the last several decades have seen the advent of another expansion within the psychotherapeutic field, that of marriage and family therapy.

Many therapists have replaced or supplemented their traditional individual and group models of practice with one emphasizing couples and families as the dominant treatment focus. This is not to suggest that contact with marital partners and other family members had been completely ignored. Rather, marital partners and family members had always been considered in light of the individual client's concerns and from an individually oriented therapeutic perspective.

As the practice of marriage and family therapy has evolved, training procedures have become more explicit, replicable, and accessible. Specific theories and techniques have been identified. Broad curricular components for training have been compiled. And specific content, goals, and teaching methods for university coursework and professional workshops have been delineated. These materials and strategies all continue to be researched, evaluated, and enhanced. Noticeably lacking before the publication of the first edition of Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy, however, were sources addressing "nontherapy" issues necessary to supplement the therapeutic training of marriage

and family therapists (Piercy & Sprenkle, 1983).

The importance of these nontherapy issues was emphasized in an article entitled "Family Therapy May Be Dangerous for Your Health" (Hare-Mustin, 1980), in which the author states:

In sum, family therapy may not be in the best interests of individual family members. Family therapists and their clients need to be aware of possible risks to the rights of the individual member. By being required to participate, individuals may have to subordinate their own goals and give up limited confidentiality and privacy. In addition, therapists who idealize the traditional family may foster stereotyped roles and expectations in the family that disadvantage individuals and limit their well-being and mental health. (p. 938)

Although offerings in the professional literature and training opportunities at conferences and workshops have increased in both number and quality, nontherapy issues—particularly ethical, legal, and associated professional concerns—are still underrepresented in relation to their potential impact on the practice of many mental health professionals. The simple fact that marriage and family therapy differs from individual and group therapy on both conceptual and pragmatic levels requires that therapists be adequately prepared to handle controversial issues from a marriage and family perspective as well. Questions that are difficult in individual and group therapy can become significantly more complicated when a couple or whole family presents itself for services (Margolin, 1982).

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the professional organization with which most marriage and family therapists are primarily affiliated, specifies graduate-level coursework in "professional studies" as a requirement within its educational requirements for clinical membership. In response, courses in "ethical, legal, and professional issues" have been developed and constitute a core component of marriage and family training programs. The first and second editions of *Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy* served as a basic text for these courses as well as a primary source for practicing professionals seeking to expand their knowledge of ethical, legal, and professional issues in marriage and family therapy. ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXT

This third edition has been updated and expanded so that it may continue to serve as a basic resource for both beginning students and practicing professionals. It is divided into three parts. Part 1 addresses ethical issues in marriage and family therapy. Chapter 1 examines major ethical issues confronting all therapists, particularly the beginning marriage and family therapist and the experienced practitioner who is shifting from an individual approach to a marriage and family perspective. Chapter 2 discusses ethical issues inherent in the interactive nature of marriage and family therapy. Chapter 3 presents contemporary ethical issues for which there is little precedent; positions advocated in the professional literature and recommendations made for handling these issues are reviewed. Chapter 4 offers a "casebook" of examples with critiques highlighting the AAMFT Code of Ethics (American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, 1998). Part 2 considers legal issues in marriage and family therapy. Chapter 5 investigates the roles and relationships of marriage and family therapists within the legal system. Chapter 6 examines relevant family law. Chapter 7, like Chapter 4, is a casebook of examples with critiques discussing the impact of legal issues on marriage and family therapy. Part 3 focuses on professional issues. Chapter 8 discusses "valuing" and the professional practice of marriage and family therapy. Chapter 9 explores the professional identity of a marriage and family therapist. Chapter 10 offers another casebook of examples addressing professional questions.

Special attention should be paid to the three casebook chapters: 4, 7, and 10. We recall our days as clinicians-in-training seeking to fathom those notions we garnered from our readings. Classroom instructors and clinical supervisors, knowledgeable and skilled from years of experience, provided case examples to

illustrate the concepts more clearly. Those illustrations made learning a more concrete experience, from which we emerged much better prepared.

Overall, this book seeks to encourage a greater familiarization and expansion of knowledge relevant to ethical, legal, and professional issues necessary to supplement clinical training and practice in marriage and family therapy. We hope that you will gain an introduction to some of the issues you may encounter and that you will be stimulated to think about your own position as a marriage and family therapist, whether as a primary source of professional identity or professional specialization. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

So many persons have contributed, both directly and indirectly, to our personal and professional development and to the writing of this book that it is impossible to thank them all. We thank the majority of them as a group by offering this book as a contribution of social interest that will, we hope, enhance the lives of mental health professionals and the clients with whom they interact. A few individuals, however, need to be singled out for special thanks.

Lee Baruth coauthored the first edition of this book. Without his many contributions, this work would not have been possible. For their constructive suggestions during the preparation of the manuscript, we thank reviewers Robert Barrett, University of North Carolina-Charlotte; Sarah G. Gabbay, Colorado State University; Lizbeth Ann Gray, Oregon State University; and Michael Poison, East Carolina University. We are particularly indebted to Kevin Davis, the executive editor for this project at Merrill/Prentice Hall.

Finally, we thank those who have made personal contributions to our lives. From Sam Gladding: "I am indebted to my parents, Russell and Gertrude, for their attention to teaching me the importance of values at a young age. My wife, Claire, and our children, Ben, Nate, and Tim, have been both understanding and supportive during my times of writing for this book. A family's encouragement and company cannot be valued enough." From Ted Remley: "I want to thank my parents, TE and Era, for giving me the education necessary to write books. I also appreciate my extended family, close friends, colleagues, and graduate students for tolerating my absences when I write and my crabby disposition when I am trying to make deadlines." And from Charles Huber: "I thank my parents, Charles and Helen, for modeling for me those core ethical qualities I had only to label, not learn, when I began my professional training and later entered clinical practice. My partner, Betsy, and our children, David and Morgan, have been most patient during the writing of the revision."

Samuel T Gladding, Ph. D.

Theodore E Remley, Jr., Ph.D.

Charles H. Huber, Ph.D.

Users Review

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Samuel Jackson:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a problem. What people must be consider while those information which is inside former life are difficult to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you have it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy as the daily resource information.

Mary Grubb:

Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into joy arrangement in writing Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy but doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

Donovan Houseman:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got learners? We believe that that question was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And also you know that little person like reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important along with book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update about something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is this Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy.

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