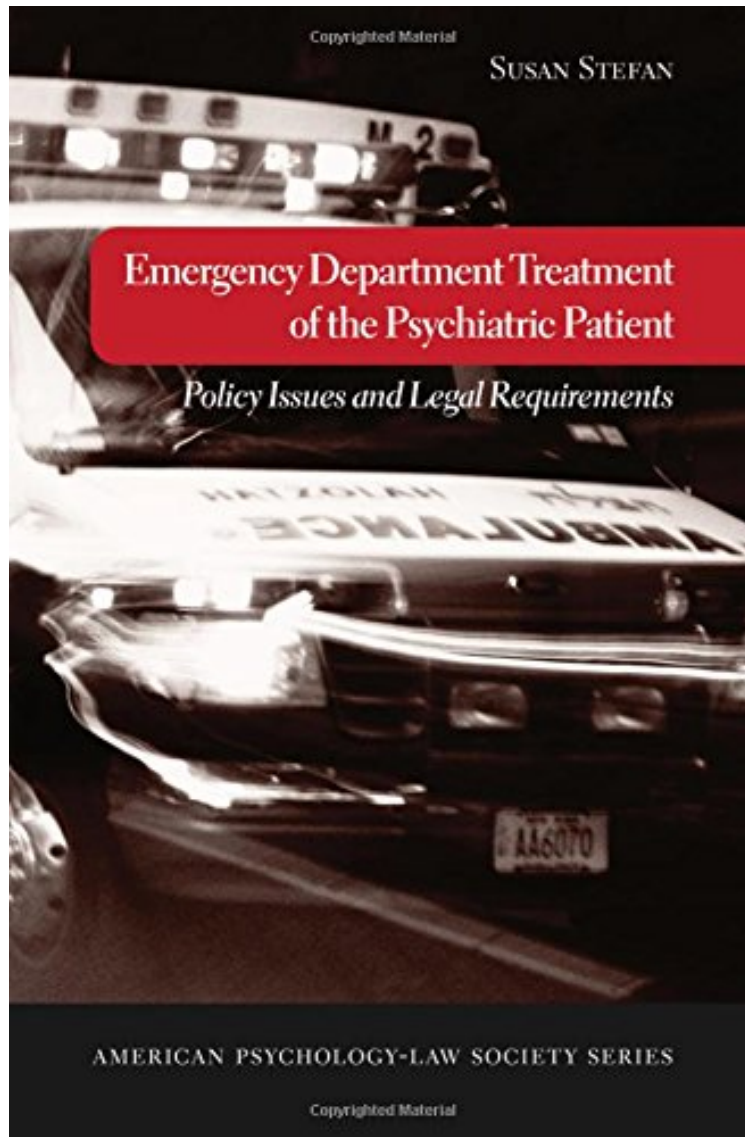


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## **Emergency Department Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient: Policy Issues and Legal Requirements (American Psychology-Law Society Series)**

*Susan Stefan*

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**Susan Stefan : Emergency Department Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient: Policy Issues and Legal  
Requirements (American Psychology-Law Society Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *Emergency Department Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient: Policy Issues and Legal Requirements* (American Psychology-Law Society Series):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Resource for System Change  
By R. A. Klein  
I needed a thorough description and discussion of the issues around discrimination against persons with mental illness in Emergency Rooms as well as suggested remedies. This text provided both. As an advocate for system change, reading this text is a must. In fact I have not been able to find any other worthy readings on this topic. This book should be required reading for all ER physicians and public policy makers and administrators looking for ways to improve health care systems.  
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent!  
By Christopher A. Gainus  
This is an excellent read for anyone concerned about the state of Psychiatric Patients in the Emergency Department. Don't expect your administrators to be happy you are reading this!  
1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Pros and Cons  
By Lee M. Bernhang  
I work in Healthcare Security at a large trauma center and I have extensive contact with active and retired police with my job. I also have police academy training, extensive law enforcement training, and a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University. This is a VERY important topic, and no one wants to be the entity to deal with mentally ill people. Everyone wants to put the problem on another entity. The book was well written, well organized, and has a ton of useful and current (2006) legal information that I was looking for. The one problem with the book is the clearly slanted liberal views of the author. She is from Connecticut, and while I hate to be stereotypical, in my twenty years being in the criminal justice/security field, certain states are known for being especially slanted in their law enforcement views and/or liberal, such as Texas, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut. Connecticut is a state known for many people with extremely liberal views. Security and Police are seen as a necessary evil, and generally not supported by the people in the state. The book leans extensively towards limiting involvement with security and police and everything being handled "intellectually." This is a serious flaw in the book, since while 95% of the time things can be managed verbally by healthcare personnel, to not accept and support the 5% of the time security and police are needed to manage issues in a "hands-on" way is not at all realistic or correct. If readers can take the liberal interpretation/presentation of some of the information with a "grain of salt", then the book is excellent and highly recommended.

Many hospital emergency departments are overcrowded and short-staffed, with a limited number of available hospital beds. It is increasingly hard for emergency departments and their staff to provide the necessary level of care for medical patients. Caring for people with psychiatric disabilities raises different issues and calls on different skills. In *Emergency Department Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient*, Dr. Stefan uses research, surveys, and statutory and litigation materials to examine problems with emergency department care for clients with psychiatric disorders. She relies on interviews with emergency department nurses, doctors and psychiatrists, as well as surveys of people with psychiatric disabilities to present the perspectives of both the individuals seeking treatment, and those providing it. This eye-opening book explores the structural pressures on emergency departments and identifies the burdens and conflicts that undermine their efforts to provide compassionate care to people in psychiatric crisis. In addition to presenting a new analysis of the source of these problems, Dr. Stefan also suggests an array of alternatives to emergency department treatment for people in psychiatric crisis. Moreover, the author proposes standards for treatment of these individuals when they do inevitably end up in a hospital emergency department. *Emergency Department Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient* presents a thoughtful and thorough analysis of the difficulties faced by people with psychiatric disabilities when seeking emergency medical care. It is essential reading for anyone working in a hospital emergency department, as well as health care policy makers, and advocates and lawyers for people with psychiatric disabilities.

"*Emergency Department Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient* is a marvelous work. It shows us the ED through the eyes of the patient. Even more important, it shows us how rules and procedures can be set up that help ED personnel to respect and support people with mental illness during what are often their worst moments. This book should be read by everyone who works with people with mental illness."--Charles W. Lidz, Ph.D., Research Professor of Psychiatry, Director, Center for Mental Health Services Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School  
Although more by default than design, hospital emergency departments have become settings where the nation's failures in addressing the needs of people who have mental illnesses are routinely played out. For many of these individuals, the emergency department has come to represent less a safe haven and a gateway to care than yet another affirmation of how a "mental patient" is an unwanted burden. Ms. Stefan's thoughtful analysis of this scenario and recommendations for improvements make *Emergency Department Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient* essential reading for anyone concerned about the disjuncture between physical and mental healthcare and the nation's urgent need for meaningful reform."--Robert Bernstein, Ph.D., Executive Director, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
*Emergency Department Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient* includes a set of valuable proposals by experts for standards of care for emergency mental health treatment. As an overview of current conditions and futures directions, [this] book will

serve as a valuable handbook and reference handbook for clinicians who work in emergency settings, for emergency room physicians, for health planners, and for attorneys and other advocates who work with persons with serious mental illness."-- Robert M. Factor, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director, Emergency Services, Mental Health Center of Dane County"...a concise yet comprehensive discussion of these various problems and challenges from both a macro and micro level...it is an excellent work...appropriately organized and clearly written and consider it a must-read for health care professionals across disciplines who practice in the area of emergency medicine."--PsycCRITIQUES

About the Author Susan Stefan, J.D., directs the National Emergency Department Project at the Center for Public Representation, based in Massachusetts. The Project seeks to improve the care of people with psychiatric disabilities when they are in crisis. Dr. Stefan, formerly at the University of Miami School of Law, is a leading authority on the civil rights of people with mental illnesses. She is a litigator and policy advocate, and author of two books, including *Unequal Rights: Discrimination against People with Mental Disabilities and the Americans with Disabilities Act*. She lives with her husband and dog in Rutland, Massachusetts.