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Book Review. Sexual Abuse by Professionals: A Legal Guide by Steven B. Bisbing, et.al.

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By Donna K. Bausch


Attorneys, administrators, insurance agents, doctors and other professionals will find this one-volume treatise on sexual misconduct by persons in a fiduciary relationship extremely helpful. The treatise, written by a licensed psychologist and two attorneys, examines civil, criminal and administrative law issues, as well as the clinical and ethical standards of the health care and religious fields. Special attention is given to the history of professional and patient/client relationships and empirical research and case law on the subject.

How are patients and clients being exploited by professionals? How should risk managers and attorneys evaluate allegations of abuse? What legal options are available to the victims? What are the consequences for the professional? These are just a few questions that can be answered with this comprehensive treatise.

In addition, the authors analyze a wide variety of fiduciary relationships, including those involving the clergy, university professors, doctors and supervisors. Other works on sexual abuse and exploitation have tended to focus on one particular fiduciary relationship, usually that of therapist and patient. Attorneys will welcome the chapters on the viability of a case, damages, defenses and the litigation process. Unreported cases, along with state, federal and Canadian decisions, are discussed. Some legal forms are also included. Doctors will appreciate the chapters on standard of care, post-termination relationships and malpractice insurance.

Pocket part updates are anticipated for this treatise. A detailed table of contents, index and table of cases make this work easy to use. Sexual Abuse by Professionals should be a standard work in academic, public and law firm libraries. —Juliet Casper, Electronic Services Librarian, Indiana University Law Library


Not all lawyers will find this a useful resource, since not all of us create our own publications, but for those lawyers and nonlawyers alike who produce newsletters, business forms, flyers or other marketing tools, Desktop Publishing with WordPerfect 6.0 is an excellent resource. It provides valuable design information to produce a professional, attractive product and it teaches the use of the tools of WordPerfect 6 for implementing those design decisions.

Richard Mansfield delivers his message in clear, straightforward terms, with enough technical design language to render it useful for all types of experience. For those of us who are novices in publishing, the author explains techniques such as "kerning" (making adjustments to letter spacing to tighten up headlines, for example). For the more sophisticated, Mansfield provides discussion of when and why to use kerning.

The body of the book consists of eight chapters, most of them focusing on features in WordPerfect 6 that make life easier for the desktop publisher. WordPerfect 6.0 permits editing and manipulation of text and graphics in what is called a WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) view.

Several chapters supply general design information helpful to a broader audience than WordPerfect 6 users. Chapter 2, "Creating the Look," points out the differences between old and new in the design world—old-fashioned design features (pages filled with text or bordered with busy designs) versus contemporary design features (smaller units of text and more white space).

Excellent visual examples are included throughout the book. For those of us with no innate sense of design, it is helpful to see the effect of using more white space or using "pull quotes." Mansfield includes "makeovers"—before and after illustrations of a page layout or a logo, with discussion of the changes. It was disappointing to be unable to locate the checklist of the 15 most common design problems promised on the back cover of the book, but there is a thorough discussion of design problems throughout the text.

Despite the pace of change in the software world, the design information in this book will remain useful, and those attorneys interested in desktop publishing with WordPerfect 6 would benefit from including this book among their reference works. —Kathy McKeel, Staff Attorney, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists


This monumental resource is the product of rare expertise and scholarship by a respected expert in the field of legal literature. As a law librarian, I can appreciate the vision