

**MEDICO-LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN EYE CARE**

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This book is a comprehensive account of medico-legal and ethics fundamentals for ophthalmologists, optometrists and opticians. The authors present the issues in two parts.

The first part is a reference section providing fundamental theories on the legal system, torts, medical negligence, informed consent, medical confidentiality, contract law, sale of goods and unfair practices, ethics and new legal developments in optometry and opticianry pertaining to Singapore practitioners. The outline of these fundamentals provides essential yet non-exhaustive information for the reader. The lucid writing with examples of relevant legal cases enables the lay reader to grasp the important principles in each chapter.

The second part of the book consists of case studies. The authors attempt to make the legal theories more relevant to the reader by providing 42 case scenarios. Specific scenarios were drawn up pertaining to ophthalmologists, optometrists and opticians, addressing the medico-legal and ethical issues and dilemmas that they may face in their practices. In addressing the problems, the authors analyse the situation by seeking to point out and elaborate upon legal issues and the principles involved, exploring the inter-relationship between medical care, ethics and the law. The approach aims to clarify issues, thus enabling practitioners to make ethical decisions and stay within legal boundaries. The practical examples also illustrate the viewpoints of various eyecare practitioners, provoking much thought for the reader. With each case scenario ending with a take-home message, the main issue or important point is summarised and serves as a useful reminder to the reader.

Perhaps if the book had been intended for lawyers, ethical and legal issues could be better distinguished in the case scenarios; a more extensive theory component could also be expounded upon. As a practitioner, the depth of discussion on legal issues provided sufficient substance to outline the essential issues involved, providing guidelines to point toward a decision. This is especially true for optometrists and opticians in Singapore, where changes in the legislation have taken place only recently.

This book provides an excellent introduction to the fundamentals of medico-legal and ethical issues arising in the ophthalmology, optometric and opticianry practice. It is also filled with multiple relevant case scenarios that are not only informative but also provoke the reader to evaluate the medico-legal and ethical issues that pertain to their own practices. The clear and concise approach taken by the authors makes the book a useful resource for teaching. Reasonably priced, comprehensive and highly readable, every eye care practitioner will find this an interesting read.

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