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Death in the Midst of Life: Social and Cultural Influences of Death, Grief, and Mourning

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Death in the Midst of Life: Social and Cultural Influences on Death, Grief, and Mourning. J. B. **Kammerman**. Prentice-Hall, **Englewood Cliffs**, New Jersey, 1988, 160 **pages**.

This book is excellent for health professionals, nurses, and health occupations educators interested in the social and cultural influences on death, grief, and **mourning**. The book begins by examining social values related to death and how Americans view death. It provides an overview of hospitals, **nursing** homes, and hospices as settings for dying people and examines health care professionals and their attitudes toward death. For example, nurses usually are found to see a more positive meaning in death than physicians. One chapter focuses on children and death as a difficult tragedy in American society. There is a discussion of grief, bereavement, and mourning. Concepts are included related to "high-grief-expectation death" that one has for immediate family members and "low-grief expectation death" that one has for co-workers and teachers with no close relationship.

For counselors and educators the book provides an examination of suicide and the guidelines for determining a suicide such as suicidal notes, mode of death, location and circumstances of death, and life history and **mental** condition of the deceased person. The author also gives a description of near-death experiences. Overall there is a discussion about the death of pets, grief, and replacing pets. The book is an excellent resource for health professionals to become familiar with the social and cultural influences of death.

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