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## Medical Ethics: Moral and Legal Conflicts in Health Care

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## Reis: Moral and Legal Conflicts in Health Care

### Book Review

Medical Ethics: Moral and Legal Conflicts in Health Care. Daniel **Jussim**.

Julian Messner, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc. **Englewood** Cliffs, New Jersey, 1991, 124 pp.

Medical Ethics provides health care **students** with an introductory overview of the history and issues of medical morality. The book illustrates the role of recent medical technology in the transformation of previously privy issues to public and legal domain. The intended purpose is to aid the reader in **realizing** the human aspects involved in health care.

The text is divided into nine chapters that move logically from a historical overview of moral value in health care to **specific** ethical topics. Issues include teenage abortion, right to die, and organ transplants, as well as more recent debates such as voluntary and confidential HIV testing. Each chapter begins with an example case, reviews historical background to the issue, discusses opposing opinions, and **leaves** the reader with additional sources and **organizations**. Topics such as “autonomy,” “paternalism,” “beneficence,” **and** “utilitarianism” are an integral part of the discussion, and serve as a basis for understanding examples. The book closes with an overview of these underlying philosophies and a list of relevant court cases.

The book’s strengths include its conversational tone and student-oriented examples. Most importantly, the author objectively presents both sides of these controversial issues, allowing the reader to think independently. The intent is to make students aware of the existence of medical ethics, and to provide stimulation for classroom discussion.

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