1989

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

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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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