



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2006

I10 Current Understanding of False Allegations of Sexual Harassment

Suma F. Gona, MD, New York University Residency in Forensic Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry Clinic, 100 Centre Street, Room 500, New York, NY 10013; and Stephen B. Billick, MD, 11 East 68th Street, #1-B, New York, NY 10021*

After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the current psychiatric literature about false allegations of sexual harassment.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by fostering an interest in further research and study into sexual harassment issues.

This presentation will review the current understanding of false allegations of sexual harassment. The presenter reviewed the current literature on false allegations of sexual harassment, with a particular emphasis on the psychiatric literature. The presentation will begin with a discussion of the legal definitions of sexual harassment. Relevance of a discussion about sexual harassment will be presented, including the incidence of sexual harassment cases, as well as sociological trends that are contributing to sexual harassment being an important workplace issue. A literature review of the psychological aspects of sexual harassment will be presented, as well as a discussion of the role of the psychiatric evaluation in these cases. Other areas of false allegations of sexual trauma will also be covered: child sexual abuse, rape and False Victimization Syndrome will be briefly reviewed in order to offer possible additional insight and applicability to the topic of false allegations of sexual harassment.

Sexual Harassment, False Allegations, Forensic Psychiatry