



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2007

19 Losing Your Rights: Complications of Misdiagnosis

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The goal of this presentation is to assist experts and particularly physicians to realize that the recording of preliminary diagnosis and opinions can have lasting and adverse effects on patients or companies and that there is prejudice against those who do not play along with the institutions involved.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by assisting in the recognition of the severe consequences that may occur from misdiagnosing a patient, and by dispersing the learned material into the various institutions one may encounter, including hospitals, the police, and the courts. Anti -psychiatric attitudes prevail which require preventive measures similar to those taken when other experts contest corporate issues in biased cases.

Violation of civil rights, forced treatment and commitment under the guise of psychiatric care are depicted in two cases involving female physicians who became “patients” in non-medical situations in different States. They were each violently victimized and at some point in their cases acted in pro per.

In both cases these women were denounced in court as malingerers after a (mis)diagnosis of psychosis and dangerousness was used to justify police action, incarceration, restraint and forced injections of psychotropic drugs to incapacitate them.

In addition, this author’s role as a forensic psychiatrist and expert witness in each of these cases was markedly handicapped by the court’s prosecutorial favoritism and prejudicial attitude against such “mentally ill” persons. The specific effects of the many injustices in these very similar cases was to negate the freedom of these women, to violate their civil rights and to discredit psychiatry while justifying the court’s and police powers.

Misdiagnosis, Violations, Civil Rights