

A Handbook of Bioethics Terms

A book review by Jennifer Dunsford

Author: James B. Tubbs, Jr.

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A Handbook of Bioethics Terms is concise glossary-style reference with approximately 400 cross-referenced entries on significant terms, expressions, acronyms and court cases that are used frequently in health ethics.

This slim, paperback volume will be a handy reference for those without ready internet access. The author's purpose in the development of this glossary is to bridge the "vocabulary gap" created by the vast differences in terminology and definition that exist in inter-disciplinary contexts. It is intended to be of use to those who are unfamiliar with common bioethics terms.

Tubbs defines many of the medical terms that arise in health ethics, which debunks some of the jargon, and will be extremely helpful for those without health care education or training. The book contains at least a brief treatment of most major bioethics concepts (justice, beneficence, nonmaleficence, allocation) and many of the seminal cases in bioethics law and literature. It is, however, missing some key concepts (veracity, fidelity).

A selection of major and seminal legal cases from the American system are described and referenced. No cases from other jurisdictions are included.

There is no table of contents, index or reference list, but entries are arranged in alphabetical order and cross referencing makes more obscure terms easy to find. Some entries contain references to well-known sources such as Beauchamp and Childress' *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*.

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