

Ciofi R., Molignoni S., Tosi M.

Manuale di diritto per psicologi e operatori psico-socio-pedagogici (Law handbook for psychologists and psychosocial-educational workers)

Hoepli, Milano, 2002

The reviewed book originates from the observation by the authors of the gaps in the very basic elements of law often showed by most professional workers in psychological or educational application sectors; it intends to be a "fluent outline of juridical knowledge" addressing those who work or are destined to work in such fields. It's exactly from the most basic elements of law that the treatment of subjects begins.

In the introductory chapters, the textbook deals in fact with general features of jurisprudence (the sources of the law, the role of Constitutional Court and the institution of abrogative referendum), with the notions of right and law (with a detailed review of the main kinds of contracts) and with labour law (from the birth of social legislation to the rules regulating self and subordinate employment, female work, juvenile work).

Family is the subject of the following chapters.

In the fourth chapter, the authors analyse marriage settlement and the items which regulate it, as well as separation and divorce.

The fifth chapter deals with children and rules concerning filiation, both legitimate and natural, national and international adoptions, custody of children and successions.

The chapter about family mediation and custody of children, particularly the very recently introduced joined custody, closes the treatment of this subject.

The seventh chapter regards Court in many different sectors (criminal, civil, administrative and juvenile) and the figures of counsels appointed by the court and party counsels. Too little place has probably been given to these last subjects which psychosocial workers have to deal with, not only in case they are called on as expert witnesses appointed by the court or by the parties at a trial, but also especially when the receiver of an intervention is a minor, considering the delicate conditions in which they have to work in these circumstances.

The following chapter proposes a review of the lines of intervention of social state, structurally subdivided into welfare health services and by categories of users (children, old people, disabled

and marginal people).

Law No.56/89 on the regulations of the psychologist's profession, the ethical code of Italian psychologists and law No.675/96 on the privacy safeguard constitute the subjects of the ninth chapter.

The three documents are considered in a concise and accurate way, providing the reader with precious informations about regulations closely connected with the practice of the profession, both from the purely legal and the ethical points of view.

The last chapters present some analyses concerning the notions of enterprise, business, for profit and no profit associations respectively.

Each chapter is accompanied by explanatory examples, verdicts by Constitutional Court or by Court of Cassation and facsimiles of documents which prove to be very useful for a practical learning of subjects that could be too abstract and far from everyday experience for psychologists and social workers in general.

The glossary in the appendix of the book makes free (that is non-straight) reference easier and helps the reader in the comprehension of the different subjects the book deals with.

A remark concerns the practically total absence of bibliographic references, which would be precious instruments for a reader who needs or wishes to study the subjects in depth.

In short, it's a user-friendly handbook for any professional worker in the field of psychology who has to go, by different rights, into the tangled roads of law.