

The Human Body and the Law

The Human Body and the Law

A medico-legal study

by David W. Meyers

This book is a dispassionate and scholarly contribution to one of the great social issues of the 1970s: the increasing impact of medical advances upon the domain of law and ethics.

Techniques of transplant surgery, of sterilisation, of medical experiment; problems of preserving life, of euthanasia, of defining death: all these have forced the medical profession, the lawyers and the legislators to come to grips with the central question — just what degree of medical intrusion (voluntary or state-regulated) on the human body is acceptable?

Only society can decide, for only when there is a clear consensus of public opinion can legislators attempt to define and regulate it by statute. But it must be informed opinion, and here the doctors and lawyers have much to contribute. The great virtue of this book is that it examines the medical and legal issues with care and skill, and sets out the comparative legal position on many of these matters, as it exists at present in the countries most closely involved. A full description is given overleaf.

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In this admirably objective and lucid exposition, the author examines from a medico-legal standpoint the comparative position in various countries, particularly in the UK and the United States, of currently controversial medical procedures: voluntary sterilization, compulsory sterilization and castration, transsexualism, experimentation, transplantation, and euthanasia-few of which, if any, enjoy a settled or clearly defined place in the eyes of the law. He considers the problems from two perspectives: firstly, that of the individual in society and how far he himself may determine the extent of physical intrusion on his body; secondly, that of the state or society and how far it may impose or limit medical intrusion on the human body. Thus, Meyers provides a valuable account, not only of current medical attitudes, but also of relevant case and statute law as it stands at present.

作者介绍:

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