

# Living with Dying

A Handbook for End-of-Life Healthcare Practitioners

Edited by Joan Berzoff and Phyllis Silverman

*Living with Dying* is the first textbook on end-of-life care for social workers and other healthcare practitioners who work with the terminally ill and their families. It begins with the narratives of five healthcare professionals who, when faced with overwhelming personal losses, altered their clinical practices and philosophies. Written from an experience-near perspective, the book provides ways to ensure a respectful death for individuals, families, groups and communities. It is organized around theoretical issues in loss, grief and bereavement, and around clinical practice with individuals, families and groups. It addresses practice with people who have specific illnesses, and pays special attention to patients that have been stigmatized by culture, ability, sexual orientation, age, race, or homelessness. It includes content on trauma, developmental issues for children, adults, and the aging who are dying and it addresses legal, ethical, spiritual, cultural and social class issues as core factors in the assessment of and work with the dying. It explores interdisciplinary teamwork, supervision, and the organizational and financing contexts in which dying occurs. Current research in end-of-life care, ways to provide leadership in the field, and a call for compassion, insight and respect for the dying makes this an indispensable resource for social workers, healthcare educators, administrators, consultants, advocates and practitioners who work with the dying and their families.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Joan Berzoff is professor and co-director of the doctoral program at Smith College School for Social Work. She is the co-author of *Inside Out and Outside In: Psychodynamic Clinical Theory and Practice in Contemporary Multicultural Contexts* and of *Dissociative Identity Disorders: The Controversy and Treatment*.

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