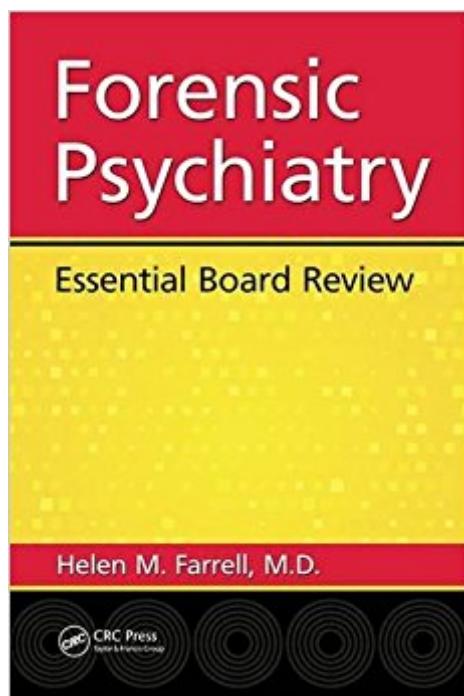


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Forensic Psychiatry: Essential Board Review



Synopsis

Watch Dr. Helen Farrell's TEDx Talk on Creating Hope for Mental Health Forensic Psychiatry: Essential Board Review is an invaluable study guide for those doctors preparing for the forensic psychiatry board exam or seeking recertification. The text is a concise and practical aid for mastering forensics, making key principles easy to understand and memorize. The book is divided into four sections. The first section, Board Examination Tips and Pitfalls, offers you important advice on everything from registering for the examination to effective studying techniques to the power of embracing a positive attitude. The second section, High Yield Notes, provides a broad review of important topics in forensic psychiatry including forensic ethics as well as civil and criminal issues. The third section, Legal Cases, contains a concise review of important mental health legal cases. The last section, Board-Style Questions, includes more than 100 board-style questions along with answers and detailed explanations for self-assessment. Although the book focuses primarily on forensic psychiatrists, a larger audience can benefit from reading it including psychologists, social workers, criminologists, general psychiatrists, medical students, and attorneys or law students interested in mental health law.

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Customer Reviews

"Dr. Farrell has written the book that we all wish we could have read when seeking forensic certification. Comprehensive, candid, and concise – an indispensable resource." •Eric Y. Drogin, JD, PhD, ABPP (Forensic), Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School and former

president, American Board of Forensic Psychology" | this pithy and well-written book is both necessary and sufficient to breeze through the exam. I highly recommend it." •Henry A. Nasrallah, MD, editor-in-chief, *Schizophrenia Research and Current Psychiatry* | Dr. Helen M. Farrell, has produced a volume that will not only get a candidate APBN forensic 'board-ready' but will also serve as a solid foundation for a successful career in forensic psychiatry." •Stephen B. Seager, MD, author of *Behind the Gates of Gomorrah: A Year with the Criminally Insane* "Helen Farrell's [book] sets a new standard for guide books and should be read by every psychiatrist interested in forensic psychiatry." •Mark Rubinstein, MD, former clinical assistant professor of psychiatry, Cornell University Medical School | includes concise summaries of the landmark cases and practice questions with informative, explanatory answers. A must for anyone planning to take the board examination in forensic psychiatry." •Alan R. Felthous, MD, professor, Department of Neurology and Psychiatry, St. Louis University School of Medicine "This book will | help in both general and forensic psychiatric board preparation and also behelpful to the general mental health clinician who often stumbles across legal issues in clinical practice." •Harold J. Bursztajn, MD, associate clinical professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School "As a trial lawyer who writes on law and psychology, I can attest that Dr. Farrell's case-by-case approach distills complex legal theories with a compelling clarity that most legal casebooks have yet to accomplish." •Ruth Sarah Lee, Esq. "Genius is the simplification of the complex •this is precisely what Dr. Helen M. Farrell has achieved here •easy to read, immediately useful, and a must read for anyone going into Forensic Psychiatry." •Joe Navarro, author of *Dangerous Personalities* | The chapters are well-organized, and the vignettes are crisply written and easy to follow. Highly recommended." •Shawn T. Smith, author of *Surviving Aggressive People: Practical Violence Prevention Skills for the Workplace and the Street*. "Dr. Farrell's book offers a comprehensive look and thorough coverage of the process necessary for forensic psychiatrists to achieve success in their field." •Steve Albrecht, author of *Fear and Violence on the Job* "[The book] specifically seeks to prepare aspiring forensic psychiatrists for board certification, but it will be equally useful for forensic psychologists as well." •Stephen A. Diamond, PhD, former forensic psychologist for the Superior Court of Los Angeles County (Criminal Division)

Helen M. Farrell is a forensic psychiatrist on staff at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts and an instructor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Farrell has presented nationally to diverse groups including members of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences,

and the American Bar Association. She has published widely in academic journals and books on the topics of psychiatry and forensic psychiatry. In addition, her work has appeared in JAMA and various media and newspaper outlets, including KevinMD.com, Psychology Today, and The New York Times.

I bought this book for my wife, a psychiatric nurse, who wanted to know more about forensic issues. She encounters these issues in her professional work. She found it very helpful. Moreover, I also found it very interesting, especially the many case studies. They offer the layman pithy insight into the inter-relationships between psychiatry and the law.

This is an excellent resource; it presents the necessary information in a concise, organized, easy to review format--highly recommended!!

I must respectfully beg to differ with the editorial reviews. This book was scheduled for release five days before I was to sit for my (Combined) General-Forensic Psychiatry ABPN recertification exam. Even after the release date, didn't have it yet, so I ordered it from the publisher and had it shipped to me next-day. Forensic psychiatry is a relatively niche specialty, so there are very few texts written promising what Dr. Farrell intended to do. I took the three-day AAPL Forensic Review Course during my fellowship, and received a gigantic binder of supporting materials, but thought I did not have enough time to re-read it all (especially with the entirety of General Psychiatry to study as well). Pros:- This book is very short. It can be read in one sitting for fast readers, or at least in a 24-hour period of typical studying for us mortals.- It contains a bit of pleasant encouragement/advice for first-time board takers. Recertifiers: Section 1 can be skipped without missing much.- Section 3 is a review of landmark cases. I thought these were pretty good.- Section 4 contains "Board-Style Questions," with explanations in the back. I like using this type of material for board-prep. Cons:- The Section 2 "high-yield notes" chapters were too short, and were hit or miss as far as how "high-yield" they were.- More concerning to me was that the "board-style" questions were not a good preparation for in vivo board questions. Dr. Farrell drew from material that was not necessarily in the "high-yield notes" (fine), and often appeared to draw from background or interesting (but not essential) material from the AAPL Board Review Course (not fine). The numerous questions testing on case law were particularly frustrating. The ABPN Forensic Psychiatry board, both when I certified and when I took my recertification exam, does contain questions about landmark cases, but the focus is on the holding and implications of the case. Most of the "board-style" questions here ask

about minutiae (court hearing the case, authors of opinions, dicta, etc.) Some of the questions where about cases that were not landmark cases at all. The questions do not always hold true to the preferred format for board questions. "Not" and "except" are now bad words in medical education. As a writer of test questions (both for students and AAPL MOC questions), this is frustrating to me. Back in "my day," not that long ago, we had to pay attention for these tricky words. My final gripe about the questions is that they are not numbered. That means that whatever method you used to record answers, you had to figure out which answer went with what question when reading the explanations.- The copy-editing of this book was not very good. I found several errors and distractions. The one example I will give is the chapter where she used the word "revise" in its various forms at least half a dozen times. I figured out she meant review, but had never heard the word revise used this way. Per the dictionary, this is a British use of the term. Well, I think that the intended audience is North Americans, so this should have been... revised.I spent some time after closing this book on the questions in the AAPL Forensic Review Course binder (for me, the 2004 edition). I don't know if these have changed much, but if Dr. Farrell used these notes as a model (at least for the case law review), that might explain some of the problems with her questions. For all this criticism, I am confident that I did fine on the forensic section. Regardless, I do not recommend using *Forensic Psychiatry: Essential Board Review* as your sole study guide (and to her credit, neither does Dr. Farrell). We need a high-yield review book for the ABPN Forensic Psychiatry exam. Unfortunately, I don't think we have one yet.

Weak content, basically just a poor version of landmark cases that are not helpful enough to warrant the price. Try another book.

A great review book in forensic psychiatry is one taking a practical, case-by-case approach in a clear, concise way. Dr. Farrell does exactly that, covering all the essentials while engaging the reader, and providing an excellent understanding of the principles applying to the interface of psychiatry and the law. I can only say I wish this book had been available years ago when I stumbled my way through courtrooms and legalities, working to understand the issues so beautifully explicated in this wonderful book. One of the best review books I've ever encountered, and in my view, an essential for any psychiatrist interested in forensic psychiatry. **Mark Rubinstein** Former Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Cornell Medical School

This is very helpful for quick review. It's a concise book that provides fundamentals of forensic

psychiatry and gives readers the opportunity to test their knowledge with many self-assessment questions. A comprehensive review book would be nice, but that was obviously not this author's intent. It's a nice quick and easy review.

This is a terrific resource that I routinely recommend to certification candidates in all forensic mental health disciplines.

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