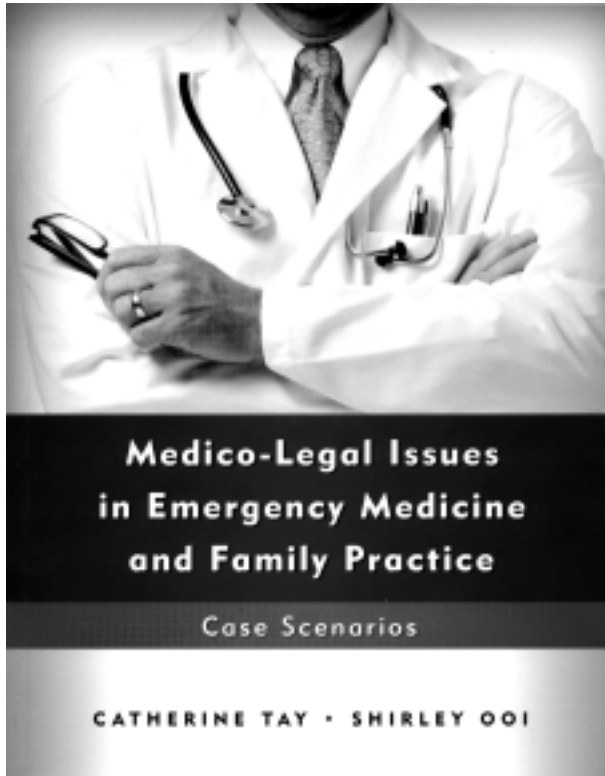


## Book review



**Title:** Medico-legal issues in emergency medicine and family practice: case scenarios

**Authors:** Catherine TAY, Shirley OOI

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For the two authors, Professor Catherine Tay is an associate professor lecturing law at the Business School of the National University of Singapore; and

Dr Shirley Ooi is the Chief of the Emergency Medicine Department at the National University Hospital in Singapore. The book is written in a question and answer format and the authors have tried to provide simple and straightforward answers to 35 common scenarios in Emergency Medicine and Family Practice with potential medico-legal implications. The answers are provided by the authors based on the Singapore legislations and their interpretations of the relevant case-laws, and a brief discussion of the legal issues is also included where applicable. Both Singapore and Hong Kong follow the English common law system, but we do have different legislations and therefore the answers to some of the questions are not applicable to Hong Kong. For instance, the age of Majority is defined by law to be 18 in Hong Kong, and we do not have legislations dealing with Advance Medical Directive and disclosure of HIV results to patient's close relatives as in Singapore.

In addition, on the question of blood transfusion involving a child as a Jehovah's Witness, it is arguable that we should simply respect the parents' wish of withholding blood transfusion without seeking other legal remedy. It is because a child, as distinct from an adult, usually does not have the freedom and ability to choose his or her religious belief. Nevertheless, this book is still worthwhile to read as it provides us with essential background medico-legal knowledge in handling common clinical problems in our daily Emergency Medicine practice.

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