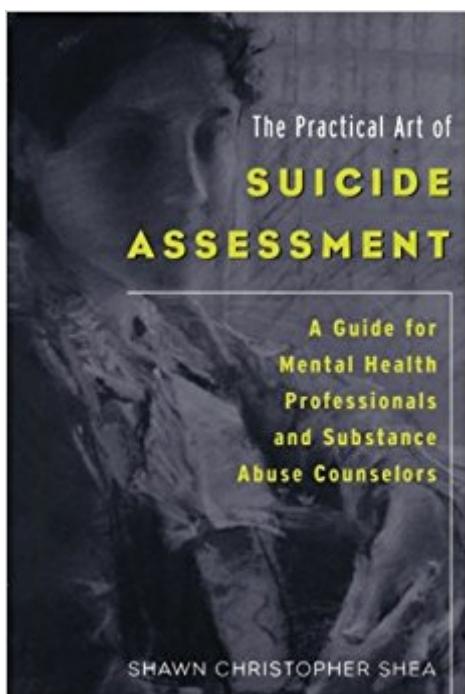


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# The Practical Art Of Suicide Assessment: A Guide For Mental Health Professionals And Substance Abuse Counselors



## Synopsis

Penned with a compelling elegance and charm, the "Practical Art of Suicide Assessment" is brimming with clinical wisdom, enlightening case illustrations and a vibrant sense of compassion. Viewed as one of the classics in the field of mental health, and acclaimed by both beginning students and experienced clinicians alike, it describes in a step-by-step fashion exactly how to make a sound suicide assessment. Dr. Shea explores the causes of suicidal ideation as well as the nuances of risk actors, protective factors, and the complexities of the clinical formulation of risk. He skillfully integrates all of this information for the reader by using real-life case examples and addressing daunting clinical challenges head-on such as assessing suicide risk with clients coping with borderline personality disorder or psychotic process. In addition Dr. Shea brings to life the highly acclaimed interview strategy for uncovering suicidal ideation, planning, behavior and intent the "Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events (CASE Approach)". Dr. Shea, the originator of the CASE Approach, shows exactly how to creatively and flexibly use its innovative interviewing techniques to match the unique needs of every client. The CASE Approach has been described by the noted suicidologist and past President of the American Association of Suicidology, David Jobes, Ph.D. as follows: "The CASE Approach moves the clinician almost imperceptibly into the secret internal workings of the mind and soul of the patient tormented by suicidal ideation. I believe that the CASE Approach is a remarkable conceptual and clinical contribution to the field of suicidology. It should be taught to any front-line clinician. It has the power to meaningfully save lives." Dr. Shea concludes the book with a no-nonsense approach to documenting a suicide risk assessment that can both help to save a client's life as well as keep the clinician out of court. Respected across the globe, the Practical Art of Suicide Assessment has been translated into languages as diverse as French and Japanese. Mental Health Presses is pleased to re-issue this classic in contemporary suicide prevention (originally published in 2002).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Shea's approach to suicide risk assessment is at once elegant in its simplicity and comprehensive in its scope and depth." (Preventing Suicide, 3/1/2004) "This book is, to date, one of the most helpful and well-written works about the in-depth evaluation of suicidal patients." (The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease, Volume 191, Number 10, October 2003) ". . . remarkably concise and valuable body of information for clinicians at any level in any specialty." --Counselor: The Magazine for Addiction Professionals "This outstanding book is informative, interesting, and clinically useful. . . . It will be meaningful and helpful to experienced practitioners, residents, other mental health clinicians, and students." --American Journal of Psychiatry "In this highly readable, engaging volume, Dr. Shea makes the process of discovering suicidality come alive. Even if you are not directly involved in suicide risk assessment, this is a very worthwhile read. If you are directly involved, this is a must read." --School Psychology Resources Online ". . . a concise, carefully conceptualized, well-written book . . . highly recommended for all psychiatric residents and all other mental health students. Their teachers, as well, will profit greatly by reading it." --Journal of Clinical Psychiatry

Critical Acclaim for The Practical Art of Suicide Assessment "There is . . . no better guide for learning about and clinically assessing the phenomenology of suicidal states. Penned with a compelling elegance and charm, The Practical Art of Suicide Assessment is brimming with clinical wisdom, enlightening case illustrations, and a vibrant sense of compassion." -David A. Jobes, PhD, past president, American Association of Suicidology "If I were asked to recommend only one book to equip clinicians to conduct the best possible suicide risk assessments, The Practical Art of Suicide Assessment would be it." -Thomas E. Ellis, PsyD, ABPP, past director, Clinical Division of the American Association of Suicidology "A concise, carefully conceptualized, well-written book . . . highly recommended for all psychiatric residents and all other mental health students." -Journal of Clinical Psychiatry "This outstanding book is informative, interesting, and clinically useful." -American Journal of Psychiatry The Practical Art of Suicide Assessment covers all the critical elements of suicide assessment-from risk factor analysis to evaluating clients with borderline personality disorders or psychotic process. This highly acclaimed text provides mental health professionals with

the tools they need to assess a client's suicide risk and assign appropriate levels of care using the highly acclaimed interview strategy for eliciting suicidal ideation-the Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events (the CASE Approach). Now available in paperback, the leading book on suicide assessment also contains three important new appendices: How to Document a Suicide Assessment Safety Contracting Revisited: Pros, Cons, and Documentation A Quick Guide to Suicide Prevention Web Sites

Indeed, suicide assessment is an art, and this book certainly helps the mental health professional hone their assessment skills. However, the best part of the book is its "readability". Most clinical books are at best dry and sometimes boring, This is a very easy read and quite interesting, even for the non-professional. I recommended to all.

I don't know why they didn't make us read this in training, I read it in a weekend, and I'm so glad I did. It has some of the best practical advice I've ever heard with regards to understanding suicidal thinking, evaluating for suicidal ideation, and making decisions about treatment. You can put the principles into practice immediately, before you even finish the book.

As the title suggests, this is full of very practical and important information about how to create a safe atmosphere for clients to share possible thoughts of suicide and what degree of intensity and risk may be present. Great examples of counselor/client dialog and exchanges.

Serving a clinical mental health population with significant suicide risks involves engaging several basic therapeutic models on a regular basis: e.g., CBT, DBT, Motivational Interviewing, crisis assessments and interventions with medical facilities and agencies. Shea's guide wraps around clinical, social and statistical theory in a way that helps clinicians identify subjective events to sort out different levels of risk factors, so as to better assess and help suicidal clients. Lots of specific examples and support knowledge. Shea has designed an interview system (CASE) that helps the clinician to elicit important information and assign appropriate interventions and care. He also emphasizes particular values in documentation of services clearly and precisely with a view to protecting both clients and providers. A valuable resource asset for the clinician.

this book is for school. however, it is a very easy read and very useful for learning how to look for suicidal tendencies in a person.

Was brand new and in good condition, thank you.

Very well written and worth the read if you are in the field.

Breaks suicide risk assessment down to its most useful parts. I assess people for suicide risk everyday and learned many new interview techniques and pearls from Dr. Shea. High yield and highly recommend.

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