

The latest edition of Mental Health Proceedings in Massachusetts, 6th Edition is available.

The latest edition of *Mental Health Proceedings in Massachusetts*, 6th Edition is now available from MCLE (<http://www.mcle.org/product/catalog/code/2150458B06>). This edition includes several major changes including chapter updates and new cases. Since many of the previously included forms are now readily available online, they have not been included. However this editions includes annotated versions of Chapters 123, 190D and 201D, the *District Court Standards of Judicial Practice-Civil Commitment and Authorization of Medical Treatment for Mental Illness* and the DMH guidelines for evaluations of criminal defendants.

This should be an important work for anyone practicing in the areas of guardianship, substituted judgment and civil commitment, including civil commitment of criminal defendants.

I am grateful to the many years of hard work by Stan Goldman, on whose prior work this edition is built. I am indebted to the assistance of Stan, Bob Weber, Karen Talley and Courtney Dunn in bringing this edition to press. If you have comments, suggestions, questions or concerns about this edition, please direct them to me as the first editor mlarsen@publiccounsel.net. Subscribers should already have received their copies and I've already received a couple of suggestions on how to improve what we've produced. As this should be a reference tool in your daily practice, please feel free to make more.

A word of caution: the annotated laws that are included with this edition make reference to numerous decisions of the Appellate Divisions of the District and Boston Municipal Courts. Some of these decisions were appealed to the higher courts, but that may not be readily apparent in the annotation. Because the Appeals Court and SJC do not regularly cite to the Appellate Division decisions, these subsequent appeals are not included in Shepard's citations and it may appear that the Appellate Division opinion can be cited as persuasive authority on a particular point when it may have been expressly overruled or modified by a higher court.

Before citing an Appellate Division opinion you should thoroughly search the names of the parties in the Appeals Court and SJC databases <https://www.lexisnexis.com/clients/macourts/> or <http://masscases.com/> for subsequent decisions. You can conduct the same search in one of the generally available online legal research libraries including Lexis, Westlaw, Casemaker or Fastcase. You can also search in the appellate court dockets to see if a recent case has been appealed: <http://www.ma-appellatecourts.org/index.php>. Do not rely on the annotations as your sole source of legal precedent; read the case and make sure it is still good law by taking some of the steps I've outlined.