

ANNUAL MEDICO-LEGAL SEMINAR 2008

Full-Day Seminar organised by the
MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY, SINGAPORE



Mental Disorders: The Medico-Legal Issues and Challenges

Date – Saturday, 11 October 2008

Venue – Novotel Hotel Clarke Quay

Time – 8:30 am to 5:30 pm

Registration Fees

MLS Members/ SMA Members - \$150.00

Others - \$180.00

Promotion Package

Five registrants for the price of four for each category of participants
(5 members or 5 non-members) – Equivalent to 20% Discount

Closing date – 31 September 2008

Cheques payable to Medico-Legal Society, Singapore

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There is much mystery, myth and folklore surrounding mental disorders. In the not too distant past, persons suffering from mental disorders were called 'lunatics'; a term associated with the supposed influence of the moon over a person's mental condition and health. The medical discipline of psychiatry has progressed far from those days and proper diagnostic and treatment programmes are now available to those afflicted with the condition.

However, there is still a lack of awareness of what are the causes of mental disorder and its various conditions such as schizophrenia, depressive disorders, morbid jealousy, etc. Why do some people suffer from neuroses and others in similar circumstances do not? Is the cause organic, genetic, or environmental?

More importantly, how can a mentally disordered person manage his own affairs? Should he be held responsible for his actions while laboring under such a condition? How does the law deal with a person suffering from mental disorder; from his capacity to make personal decisions to his responsibility for his actions when he commits an offence? What is the role of the State in caring and treating mentally disordered persons?

The 2008 Annual Seminar of the Medico-Legal Society on '**Mental Disorders: The Medico-Legal Issues and Challenges**' seeks to address the wide diversity of issues surrounding mental disorders. The issues looked at include:

- a) Understanding the nature, symptoms and treatment of mental disorders;
- b) Mental disorder and legal incapacity - the extent to which a person suffering from mental disorder can contract and give valid consent to medical treatment and to manage his own affairs.
- c) Mental disorder and criminal liability - the extent to which a person suffering from mental disorder is responsible for his actions.
- d) The impact of the recent legislative amendments to the Mental Disorders and Treatment Act on the care and treatment of persons suffering from mental disorders and new powers to manage their affairs.
- e) Punishing the mentally disordered offender – the philosophy behind the setting up of the community court and the new approaches to punishing mentally disordered offenders through various care and placement plans.
- f) The Government's blueprint for mental health for the next 5 years.

We have invited eminent speakers from their respective fields to speak at the Seminar. You will have the opportunity at this Seminar to familiarize yourself with all the diverse issues affecting the mentally disordered.