

THE HOARDING HANDBOOK

A Guide for Human Service Professionals

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and Gail Steketee

Hoarding is a serious, time-consuming, and expensive problem for virtually every community across the United States. First responders often encounter hoarding unexpectedly and are confused about how to resolve the wide range of problems, from public health and fire safety violations, to housing violations, to concern for the welfare of children, elders and animals. Sometimes solutions must be coordinated across several human service disciplines. The first of its kind, this handy guide is a nuts and bolts resource filled with case studies, tips and strategies, and easy-to-use suggestions for professionals responding to hoarding situations.

Organized around the common ways hoarding captures the attention of social service providers, this user-friendly guide provides tools to assess the problem, to coordinate and delegate tasks among helping professionals, and to work directly with reluctant hoarders and those affected by the hoarding. Chapters give hands-on guidance and decision trees for who should be involved and what strategies are needed for each case. This book is compassionate and comprehensive, an invaluable reference for social workers and human service providers in a broad range of fields.

Unique features:

- Presents the Hoarding Task Force Intervention Model, useful to a wide range of service providers
- Includes recommendations for efficient use of fiscal and personnel resources in hoarding cases
- Provides hands-on tools for assessing hoarding severity
- Details specific intervention tips and strategies relevant to various providers

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