

CONFIDENTIALITY - Death of Patient

written by Richard Leslie | September 30, 2021

While thankfully not an everyday occurrence, it is not a rarity that a patient unexpectedly dies during the course of treatment or shortly after termination. Death may result from natural causes, from a long standing illness, from an auto or other accident, from a criminal act, from Covid-19 or one of its variants, or from an unexpected suicide. The sadness of such situations is obvious, and the loss will likely affect the therapist's psyche and provoke a variety of thoughts. Very quickly, however, the therapist's thoughts may (or should) turn to the issue of confidentiality.