



# Counseling Individuals With Life-Threatening Illness

*Kenneth J. Doka PhD*

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**With a Foreword by Robert A. Neimeyer, PhD**

*Where was this book when I was new as a counselor?....Fortunately, it is here now, and with all the scope, depth, resourcefulness, and balance required for such situations."*

**-Dr. Robert Kastenbaum, PhD**

*This book will now be an indispensable resource for anyone who wants to understand, counsel, or otherwise help individuals with life-threatening illnesses and their family members.*

**--Charles A. Corr, PhD, CT**

*Without question, this is the book you'll want your own caregivers to have read should you ever contend with life-threatening illness.*

**--Therese A. Rando, PhD, BCETS, BCBT**

Life-threatening illness is not only a medical crisis; it is a psychological, social, and spiritual crisis as well. Also, serious illness affects not only the patient, but the patient's family. Therefore, the two major premises of this book are that care in life-threatening illness must be holistic, and it must be family centered.

Doka presents an insightful, comprehensive guide for counselors, social workers, and health care professionals, as they assist clients experiencing a serious illness. The book builds on a model developed by the author, based upon earlier work by Avery Weisman and E. M. Patterson.

Doka's model presents illness as a series of phases:

- Prediagnostic: individuals may decide how to handle troubling symptoms or to take certain diagnostic tests
- Diagnostic: centered on the existential crisis posed by the diagnosis
- Chronic: individuals must cope with the disease and treatment
- Recovery: acknowledges that even when individuals survive an encounter with life-threatening illness, there are still considerable issues that must be resolved
- Terminal phase: individuals deal with the inevitability of death

In his discussion of each phase, the author delineates specific tasks for patients to perform and the issues they must adapt to. He also presents strategies for counselors and health care professionals to use with individuals in each phase of illness.



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### **From reader reviews:**

#### **John Lien:**

The guide untitled Counseling Individuals With Life-Threatening Illness is the book that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to anyone. The language that creator use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of research when write the book, to ensure the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Counseling Individuals With Life-Threatening Illness from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

#### **Staci Eager:**

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