



# Best Practices for the Mentally Ill in the Criminal Justice System (SpringerBriefs in Psychology)

*Lenore E.A. Walker, James M. Pann, David L. Shapiro, Vincent B. Van Hasselt*

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## Best Practices for the Mentally Ill in the Criminal Justice System (SpringerBriefs in Psychology)

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This timely brief resource introduces a new evidence-based model for treatment of mentally ill individuals in jails, with emphasis on community-based options. Forensic mental health experts review police alternatives to arresting mentally ill persons in confrontations, the efficacy of problem-solving courts, and continuity of care between jail and community. The book's best-practices approach extends to frequently related issues such as addiction, domestic violence, juvenile considerations, and trauma and describes successful programs coordinating judicial and clinical systems. These guidelines for decriminalizing non-violent behaviors and making appropriate services available to those with mental problems should also help address issues affecting the justice system, such as overcrowding.

Included in the coverage:

- The Best Practices Model.
- Best practices in law enforcement crisis interventions with the mentally ill.
- Problem-solving courts and therapeutic jurisprudence.
- Competency restoration programs.
- A review of best practices for the treatment of persons with mental illness in jail.
- Conclusions, recommendations, and helpful appendices.

With its practical vision for systemic improvement, *Best Practices Model for Intervention with the Mentally Ill in the Criminal Justice System* is progressive reading for practitioners in the mental health field, especially practitioners working with inmates, as well as for stakeholders in the law enforcement and justice systems.

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