Tatiana Tarasoff

A Duty to Warn

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This case focused on the treatment of a man after he acknowledged the fact that the girl he caught feelings for didn’t want him in the same way and his mental state deteriorated. He sought treatment and stated that he was going to kill her. The statement was reported but they failed to warn the person in question of the threat. And he ended up killing her.

I suffer from bipolar disorder and have made statements like this to my therapist about wanting to harm a boyfriend. And she did not warn him. I went as far as breaking into his house a beating him up because I thought he was cheating and that’s how I got in trouble. I do not think enough was done to get me help. When he was caused my mental state to change. I wanted help, I even wanted to stay in the hospital just to get away and to have that peace of mind of not having to argue every day. But since I wasn’t experiencing thoughts of harming myself, I got my refills and my next follow up appointment. Some people mean it at the time, but others are too far gone and will go that route. As for me, I would never harm him. I suffer daily but I do not act. My stance on this is that more should have been done to notify the now deceased victim and everyone around her; so they could’ve made the necessary precautions to be on the look-out for any weird behavior from the patient. Any time a patient has any type of mental health issues everything and everyone should be taken into consideration and to always consider the next party well-being if the statement was made to harm them. This is where Deontology comes into play because they’re disregarding the consequences of what could happen. Knowing when to take a patient serious when statements like that are made can either make or break your career. I feel every therapist should gain that trust with every patient, so they are comfortable to say anything to them. Empathy and actually listening can lead to a whole different world when dealing with mental health patients. Limiting giving out medicine and the next appointment just to get them out the way can save many lives. Those patients need attention and someone who can feel and put their self in their shoes. You have to feel their pain. The signs are always there but mass shootings are still happening and numerous amounts of innocent people dying. Therapist should have more training when it comes to unstable patients. I saw Law & Order: Criminal Intent yesterday and the case was quite interesting. I know it isn’t real, but it made me think about Therapists and Confidentiality. A mental health patient expressed thoughts about harming people in every session. The therapist did not take it serious at all and didn’t report it. And when he did act on it, the therapist then took him on as a private client so that he could not discuss his treatment with anyone to cover his tail. I thought that this could happen today in society. How many potential crimes could have been stopped if the therapist took the time to work with authorities? You cannot label US crazy when you do not understand US. Doctor’s should not give out meds and the next appointment. Get to know us, feel our pain, loneliness and the cry for help when we come to you. Patient’s need that support and someone to listen to them. I will close with this that has been told to me many times: I don’t suffer from Schizophrenia; I live with it.

# Bibliography

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