

Introduction to Medical Legal Ethics

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1. Introduction

- Medical legal ethics studies how moral principles and the law intersect in healthcare practice.
- It prepares practitioners to act responsibly toward patients, colleagues, and society.

2. Core Foundations

- **Ethics:** standards of right and wrong guiding conduct.
- **Law:** binding rules enforced by the state.
- **Medical jurisprudence:** application of legal principles to medicine.

3. Why Both Matter

- Legal compliance alone does not guarantee ethical care.
- Combining both protects patient welfare and professional integrity.

4. Key Themes

- Informed consent, confidentiality, and patient autonomy.
- Negligence, duty of care, and professional accountability.

5. Application in Practice

- Practitioners must document care, respect rights, and follow regulations.
- Awareness of legal duties reduces malpractice risk and ethical breaches.

6. Summary

- Medical legal ethics unites moral duty with legal obligation.
- Mastery of both ensures safe, lawful, and trustworthy healthcare.