

FAMILIES IN SOCIETY

The Journal of Contemporary Social Services

Guidelines for Collective Book Reviews

Book Titles: _____

Book Reviewer: _____ **Due Date:** _____

Reviews should inform readers of new books in various fields and critique those books so that readers can decide whether this book collection will enhance their knowledge and skills, or bring new perspective to a given subject. The review should also reveal whether the writing and content is clear and accessible, and whether discussion of a complex or controversial issue is learned and thoughtful.

With those goals in mind, we offer the following guidelines and suggestions for writing a thoughtful and useful review:

- Generally, begin with a discussion of the topics the books address and what the author(s) purports to add to the existing literature in the field.
- Very briefly describe what is covered in each book, the depth and originality of the content, and whether the content is presented in a way that is both thought-provoking and clear. Compare and contrast the content of each book. Does this collection provide a well-rounded knowledge base on the related topic?
- Discuss the position of the authors on social, political, or other issues. Is the point of view new or controversial? (Describe.) Are there competing perspectives that the readers should know about? Are there important topics for readers to consider that have been neglected or left out of the review collection? Is there another book that is better suited for this collection?
- Summarize your impressions of the review collection's worthiness. Is the collection worth adding to one's professional library? Why? Who should read them? Describe how you think these books may have utility for readers or how its applicability might be limited. Do you recommend it? What made an impact on you while reading the books, or, alternately, failed to impress you?

Collective reviews following the above guidelines should be five to eight double-spaced typed pages. Please include your name, agency/academic affiliation, and contact information (e-mail, or mailing address) at the bottom of the review. Submissions are due within 6 to 8 weeks.

You may keep the books after completing the review. If, after receiving the book collection you are unable to complete the review, you must return the publications to *Families in Society* as soon as possible so that an alternate reviewer can be found promptly. After reading your review, the editor or journal staff may contact you if they require any clarification or elaboration.

Please e-mail the completed review as an attachment to **Reviews@FamiliesInSociety.org**, along with the signed publisher's agreement form. The form can also be faxed or mailed to: (414) 359-1074, or Book Review Editor, *Families in Society*, 11700 W. Lake Park Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53224-3099.

As collective reviews are new to *Families in Society*, we would greatly appreciate any feedback on the review process and framework for completing the reviews.