Discussion Questions

# Chapter 16: THE LAW AND MENTAL HEALTH

1. It is sometimes the case that individuals who commit serious crimes are found not guilty by reason of insanity – a verdict that often spurs vast public debate. How do you feel about this verdict? Explain whether you think insanity is a justifiable defense and why.

2. Suppose you are a school nurse and a student comes to you with significant bruising on her body. You suspect that these injuries may have been sustained from parental abuse, and while the student verbally confirms your suspicion, she urges you not to tell authorities. Further, she tells you that you are legally required to remain silent due to laws of confidentiality. Are you required to keep your findings a secret in this situation? Explain why or why not.

3. Discuss the importance of the Ethical and Legal Aspects of the Initial Contract for Treatment. How will you ensure that the client you are working with fully comprehends the Contract for Treatment? Be sure to discuss informed consent, duty to protect, confidentiality, and HIPPA in your response.

4. The topic of hospitalization, though needed, may be challenging to discuss with your client. How might you discuss voluntary hospitalization with him or her, and when might you consider involuntary hospitalization for your client? Discuss how you will prepare your client for hospitalization and how you will ensure that they fully know their legal rights in regards to admission, treatment and discharge?