

MEDICO LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF HOMICIDE FOLLOWED BY SUICIDE

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Homicide followed by suicide, in the literature known as homicide-suicide (H-S), represents a distinct entity of homicide phenomenon which implies the suicide of a perpetrator after killing one or more persons. Dyadic death (DD) belongs to a special subgroup of H-S and implies the suicide of a perpetrator after killing a single victim. The perpetrator is most often a man in his forties who commits suicide soon after killing his wife or intimate partner because of separation or alienation. The scientific literature has identified various categories of H-S and DD that include killing a victim followed by the suicide of a perpetrator as a part of marital violence caused by jealousy or anxiety due to growing old and/or poor health of marital partners, and more rarely as a part of family violence or when a parent kills his/her child and then him/herself. Groups of the so-called extra-familial H-S include a mixed group of perpetrators composed of dissatisfied workers, members of different cults, religious or political groups who, as a rule, do not kill one, but more victims. Due to the number of victims, such cases do not fall into the DD category from a medico legal point of view.

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