



# Psychoanalytic Case Formulation

By Nancy McWilliams PhD

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What kinds of questions do experienced therapists ask themselves when facing a new client? How can clinical expertise be taught? From the author of the landmark *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis*, this book takes clinicians step-by-step through developing an understanding of each client's unique psychology and using this information to guide and inform treatment decisions. McWilliams shows that while seasoned practitioners rely upon established diagnostic categories for record-keeping and insurance purposes, their actual clinical concepts and practices reflect more inferential, subjective, and intuitive processes. Interweaving illustrative case examples with theoretical insights and clinically significant research, chapters cover assessment of client temperament, developmental issues, defenses, affects, identifications, relational patterns, self-esteem needs, and pathogenic beliefs.

Winner--Gradiva Award, National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"Books by Nancy McWilliams used in unison make the best psychodynamic resources I have yet encountered in more than 60 years in the field."--Robert C. Lane, PhD, Department of Psychology, Nova Southeastern University

"This beautifully written, uniquely accessible guide to the psychoanalytic understanding of clinical cases will be of immense value to students and practitioners of all theoretical persuasions. I predict it will be among the most important and widely used books in this field for years to come." --George E. Atwood, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

"*Psychoanalytic Case Formulation* is a worthy successor to *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis*. Nancy McWilliams has a pellucid writing style that brings complex concepts within the easy grasp of the reader. She has produced a book that is intelligently psychoanalytic without being restricted to any single vision of psychoanalysis. The critical concepts are developed well and the issues important to assessment--a concept that goes well beyond diagnosis--are explicated clearly and helpfully. This is a rare book that can serve as a text for beginning students and still has much to offer to accomplished professionals." --George Stricker, PhD, The Derner Institute, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY

### **From the Publisher**

Also From Nancy McWilliams- *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*, 398 Pages, 1994, Hardcover ISBN 0-89862-199-2, Cat. #2199, \$40.00. A successful attempt to bring together the many strands of contemporary psychoanalytic investigation of the nature and psychotherapeutic treatment of character pathology. Readable and informative....[An] excellent primer (Otto F. Kernberg, MD).

### **From the Back Cover**

This beautifully written, uniquely accessible guide to the psychoanalytic understanding of clinical cases will be of immense value to students and practitioners of all theoretical persuasions. I predict it will be among the most important and widely used books in this field for years to come (George E. Atwood, PhD)

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