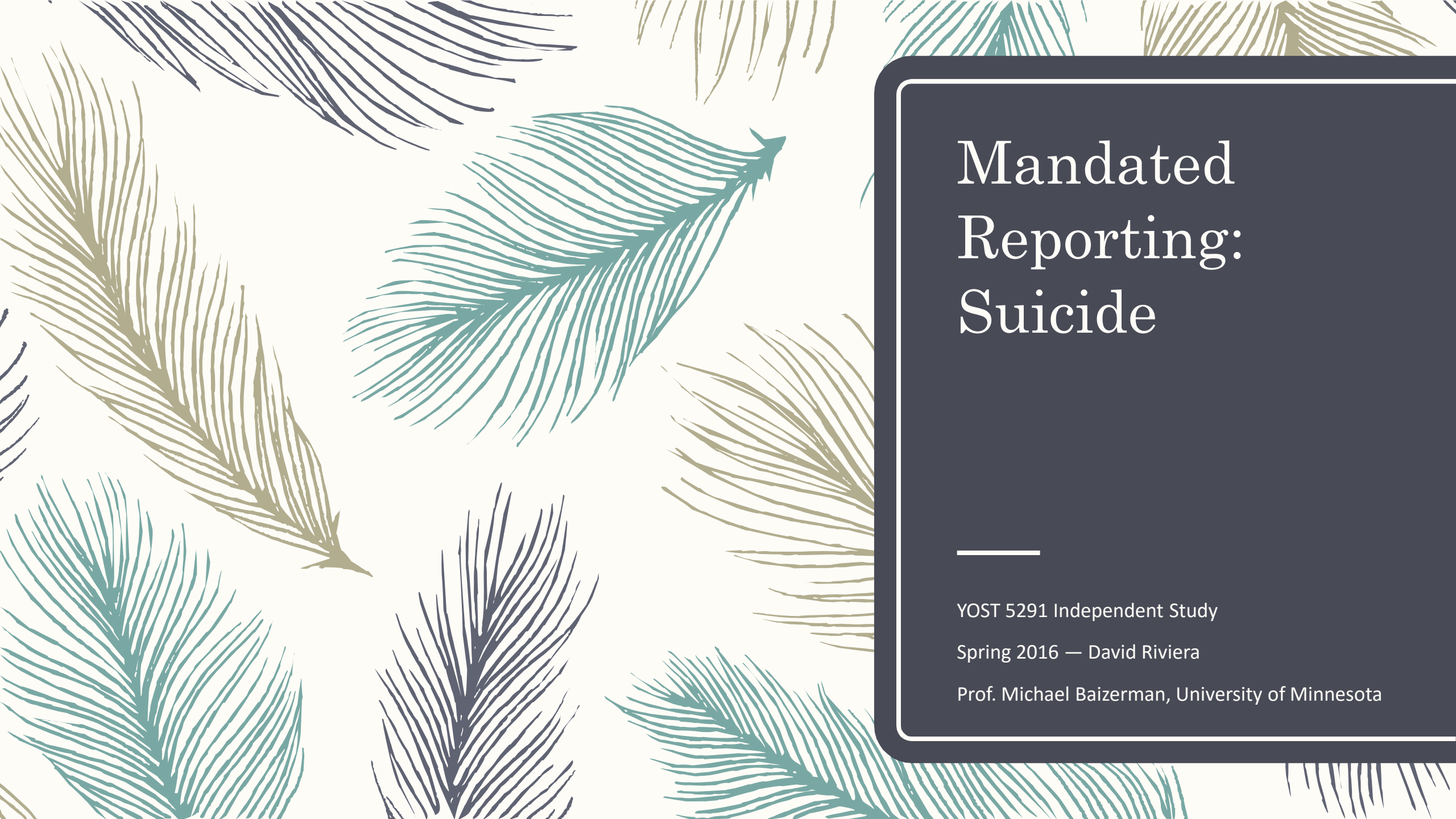




Mandated Reporting: Suicide

YOST 5291 Independent Study

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Topics

- What is a mandated report?
- Who is a mandated reporter?
- Who do you report?
- To whom do you report?

- No federal law defines suicide reporting requirement
- Varies state to state based on state statutes
- Individual knows or has reasonable cause of suspected abuse or neglect
 - a fact or circumstance that justifies a reasonable suspicion (<http://research.lawyers.com/>)
- Conditions that would result in harm to child
 - Includes self-injury or self-harm, suicide attempts
 - *Talking about suicide*
 - *Seeking lethal means to kill oneself*
 - *Substance abuse*
 - *Past suicide attempt*
 - *Triggering events*
 - *Access to firearms*
 - *Existence of plan*
 - *Intent*
 - *Suicide screening and assessment*
- Includes facts and circumstances that led to suspected abuse, neglect, or harm
- No burden of truth

What is a mandated report?

A legally required report of child maltreatment.



- Varies state to state based on state statutes
- Professionals with frequent contact with children in official capacity
 - Social workers
 - Teachers, principals, and other school personnel
 - Physicians, nurses, and other health-care workers
 - Counselors, therapists, and other mental health professionals
 - Child care providers
 - Medical examiners or coroners
 - Law enforcement officers
- Others based on state law
 - Commercial film or photograph processors
 - Computer technician
 - Substance abuse counselors
- Permissive reporters
 - Voluntary reporters of abuse or harm
- Privileged Communications
 - State reporting law may specifically affirm or deny statutory recognition of the right to maintain confidential communications (physician-patient, attorney-client, clergy-penitent)

Who is a mandated reporter?

A person with close, personal, frequent contact with youth.



- Child (<http://research.lawyers.com/>)
 - a son or daughter of any age and usually including one formally adopted
 - often held to include a stepchild, an illegitimate child, a person for whom one stands in loco parentis, or sometimes a more remote descendant, such as a grandchild
- A person below an age specified by law
- Federal law defines a “minor” as a child under the age of 18 unless specified otherwise

Who do you report?

A child and their family or caretakers.



- Varies state to state by statute
- State child protective services agency
- Institutional policy
 - Some states require an employee of an institution to report to the institution, then the institution makes the report
 - Some states require an employee to make the report to Child Protection Services, then to inform the institution a report has been made
- Regardless of institutional policy, individual is not relieved of duty to report
- Based on individual state law, employer may be prohibited from any action to prevent or discourage employee from making report
 - No retaliation for making report
- If attempt discovered, call the police and/or emergency medical services, such as 911
- Inform parent or guardian
- Reporter confidentiality maintained under most state jurisdictions
 - Released to officials if necessary for further investigation
 - May be released if reporter knowingly made false report
 - Reporting may be able to waive confidentiality

To whom do you report?

Child Protection Services, or as dictated by state law and institutional policy.





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