

## Intimate Lies: How Does and How Should the Law Regulate Deception Within Our Closest Relationships

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This book examines deception within intimate relationships and explores how the law does and should regulate the practice. One might imagine intimate deception to be a quintessentially private phenomenon. But the law pervasively regulates the field, determining when someone may deceive an intimate without fear of legal penalty and when a deceived intimate has a right to redress.

Examining the regulation of intimate deception across doctrines and subjects makes clear that the law treats deception within intimacy very differently than deception outside of it. Within intimate relationships, the law much more frequently allows and facilitates deception and denies remedies, even where the deception inflicts substantial injury.

The legal regulation of intimate deception decides individual disputes and simultaneously makes judgments that extend beyond any specific case to reflect, shape, and enforce societal norms. Courts and legislatures categorize relationships as intimate or not, establish the legal consequences of being part of an intimate relationship, announce limits on acceptable conduct within intimacy, and identify what counts as a harm worthy of relief.

Legal authorities have also used their regulation of intimate deception as a powerful platform for expressing and enacting their views on gender, class, race, and other divides. For example, courts denying redress for intimate deception often appear to reason from a stereotypically male perspective in describing events and drawing conclusions, and judges routinely strive to protect what they identify as typical male conduct.

INTIMATE LIES reveals and critiques the law's treatment of intimate deception. The book uncovers a legal field that has been all but hidden in plain sight, bringing to the foreground an enormous body of regulation that has not been systematically examined. I argue that the law has placed too much emphasis on protecting people who deceive their intimates and too little importance on protecting intimates who are deceived.

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