



# Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America

By Philip K. Howard

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**Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America** By Philip K. Howard

**How to restore the can-do spirit that made America great, from the author of the best-selling *The Death of Common Sense*.**

Americans are losing the freedom to make sense of daily choices?teachers can't maintain order in the classroom, managers are trained to avoid candor, schools ban tag, and companies plaster inane warnings on everything: "Remove Baby Before Folding Stroller."

Philip K. Howard's urgent argument is full of examples, often darkly humorous. He describes the historical and cultural forces that led to this mess and lays out the basic shift in approach needed to fix it. Today we are flooded with legal threats that prevent us from taking responsibility. We must rebuild boundaries of law that protect an open field of freedom. The voices here will ring true to every reader. The analysis is powerful, and the solution unavoidable. What's at stake, Howard explains in this seminal book, is the vitality of American culture.

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### **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

In his latest prescriptive survey of American law abuse and its consequences, Howard (*The Death of Common Sense*, *The Collapse of the Common Good*) sticks to the formula: one ghastly anecdote after another demonstrating how the justice system hinders freedom and confounds Americans who simply want to do the right thing. Either through litigation or the fear of it, Howard argues, we've ceded our everyday decision-making to the lawyers (we "might as well give a legal club to the most unreasonable and selfish person in the enterprise") resulting in everything from "no running on the playground" signs to a 5-year-old handcuffed at school by police; from diminishing health care quality and spiraling costs to doctors afraid of discussing treatments among themselves over email. Chair of nonpartisan advocacy organization Common Good, Howard has a great deal of knowledge and a catalog of abuses that will elicit fury and despair. For the third time in some 15 years, Howard agitates for change by asking "How did the land of freedom become a legal minefield?"; in this time of financial depression and political hope, Howard may have found the perfect moment to sound his alarm.

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Review

Surely will be 2009 s most needed book on public affairs. "

About the Author

Philip K. Howard, the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Death of Common Sense*, is the chair of Common Good. He lives in New York City.

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Julianna Pepper:**

Now a day individuals who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not require people to be aware of each information they get. How many people to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Examining a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information particularly this *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America* book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

**Barbara Norwood:**

The reason why? Because this *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap that but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your

talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

### **William Stone:**

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### **Carmen Dana:**

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