

End of Life Choice Submission

At the age of 92 my father was suffering from longterm prostate cancer and it was now impacting on his quality of life so with incredible courage, he decided to end his own life.

This was planned over an 18 month period which none of the family were aware. At one stage he mentioned in passing that he did not want to get "caught up in the hospital system" but none of us knew of his intentions.

Now left as a grieving daughter, I have to ask why did this amazing man had to end his life by his own hand by himself, when his final time should have been surrounded by those who loved him. We must be able to decide the final time of our passing, not be dictated by doctors who's Hippocratic oath is to save lives. We must have the right to make this choice and this must be respected by all. No time to die is ever the right time. For those who are left, of course we want them here with us, but only the person dying knows when their time has come. How long do they have to suffer with untold pain and medications when they will eventually die anyway. Help them to die with dignity surrounded with family and friends who can say their final goodbyes. To take ones own life is the final cry of human desperation.

Debbie Marcus

