

To whom it may concern.

I am putting in a submission re the Right to die with dignity.

I watched my mother with first Parkinson's disease then strokes and finally dementia. She went from a very proud woman to one who was in a foetal position for about the last 10 years of her life.

I nursed her at home for as long as I could..daily watching her fall and shake from the Parkinson's until her body would ache, then the strokes took more of her independence plus her memory. The look on her face as the confusion took over, the fear, the not being able to shower, dress or feed herself, nor remember where she was let alone who she was, she had the imaginary people she could only see, and how do you reassure her when many of these she feared. She collapse so many times that eventually she had to go into care..which believe me is not any holiday home they are over worked and because she couldn't talk got forgotten quite often.

I spent everyday visiting her, feeding her, reassuring her that everything was alright. When I knew it wasn't. I sat by her bed day and night for the last week of her life, the death rattles where her body just kept going even though her brain was dead, have you ever had to listen to someone take a big breath, then a shorter one and then another short breath then stop for 90 seconds..I counted them. Then just when you thought she had gone she took in a breath. That lasted 7 agonizing days and nights, the other family couldn't take it anymore when she took her last breath I was still there..Completely drained and my heart and spirit broken, it still is 10 years later. I will never forget her 20 years of total decline, she was a human being and as such, deserved a better choice. You not put a dog through what she went through nor us as her family.

My mother wasn't the only person I have watched die, I had 4 people close to me who died of lung/bone etc cancer. One of them, my aunt broke her leg and beg the doctors to operate, thinking she would die under the anaesetic, she was so angry when she woke up. Then went Caritas Christi..the hospital for the dying, where she and others who ended there too, would cry with pain if you even touched the bed let alone them.

I have told my family that they are not to put me in a nursing home or hospice if I contract any deliberating disease whether mentally or physically.

So as when the time comes I will finish it myself and as not to implicate them, means I will die alone instead of peacefully with dignity and with family around me

I truly believe that if a person was able to go to their solicitor have their wishes written out, as to when and at what stage of time and it when should be the right time, then there should be the assistance to end their life on their terms. This would be witnessed by 2 people, making sure the 2 witnesses were no relation to the person. This paper could be put with their will and other documents with copies at their home

This way there would be no place for anyone to take advantage, misuse or mistake the persons wants, therefore not breaking the law.

Also if any of my organs were of any use they could be used, you have to remember my mother's organs were okay, it was her brain that was damaged.

I also find it strange and hypercritical that we are allowed to make a decision to donate our organs and sign them over. With no problems, yet we do not have the right to decide when it is our time and to die with dignity.

Please, Please..Think as you decide my future and the other people in this position now or in the future, remember it could be you or someone close to you who is in this position..Love and compassion have to be seen and to be done. I loved my relatives who have gone. But my love shouldn't give me the right to hold on to someone when it's their time to go..what is that old saying.."To truly love someone more than yourself, then you have to be able to let them go."

Yours Sincerely

Christine Maree Gray.