

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: voluntary euthanasia.
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I watched my demented mother starve and dehydrate to death across 13 days. With that experience I came to believe that Palliative care extends the dying process. Her morphine regime was set up in such a way that her life was leached out of her at an excruciatingly slow pace. That regime was ultimately not for her benefit but as a protection for the medical profession so that no-one could be accused of euthanizing her, which is what she wanted and her family wanted and which she had clearly stated and documented, all to no avail. I want the medical profession to have the legal power to help people like my mother, and I want to be able make a legal document which states my end of life choice and to have that document honoured. Knowing the end of life choice of my husband and having it legally documented, I want to be able to legally help my terminally ill and frail or demented husband to die without risking a jail sentence.

I believe that an individual should be able to have a number of end of life choices which include;

Legal and easy access to end of life drugs such as Nembutal, whereby a person can choose the time and place of their own death at their own hands.

Medically assisted euthanasia whereby a person who has clearly, publicly and with documentation declared that when certain trigger points are reached in their demise, that they be helped to die.

Palliative care if an individual wishes to starve to death over many days and in an unconscious state.

When my father was diagnosed with mesothelioma and I told him how upset I was that he was dying, he told me, "A man has to die of something. You're born, you live, you die, it's natural. It's normal." We will all die and we will all die of something. Rather than drag out the life of the 'something', please let the dying be as dignified, as peaceful and as quick as possible. It is the dying person, their wishes and those of the family that should be paramount in those last few weeks/days, not the needs of the medical profession.