

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into end of Life Choices

Those who wish to end their suffering caused by a terminal, painful complaint or been diagnosed with dementia or other mind destroying disease that strips them of their dignity should not be denied euthanasia to end their suffering. How many people diagnosed with Alzheimer's have ended their lives too soon because they felt if they left it any later they may not be able to end their own life.

Those who want euthanasia should make their wishes known before any problem occurs – stipulating various scenarios – pain if they are unable to speak, but it can be seen that they are suffering, or if dementia when they do not know family members for x number of days, or they are a danger to themselves and others if left in their home, or suffering a stroke leaves them totally incapacitated with no hope of recovery, that would put paid to the claim that “relatives or others could put pressure on them.” A document should be drawn up and given to those people who want euthanasia with the options on it. A doctor should assess the patient to ensure they are not just having a bad day, and when the doctor decides the time has arrived, get a second opinion. A psychiatrist could be an option if the person wants one but should not be made mandatory. Doctors and nursing staff should not have to participate in euthanasia if they do not wish to do so.

Surely a peaceful death surrounded by loved ones is far better than making people die alone, some using terrible methods to end their lives leaving an unpleasant scene of death for someone to walk in on.

Joan Traill

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