

Assisted Suicide -- suicide committed with the aid of another person, sometimes a

doctor.

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In the U.S. legal system, the term "assisted suicide" is used to describe medical aid in dying for terminally ill, mentally capable adults who self-administer medication to shorten their own dying process.

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The federal government does not have assisted suicide laws. Those laws are generally handled at the state level. Physician-assisted suicide is illegal in thirty-nine states. There are no specific laws regarding assisted suicide in Nevada, North Carolina, Utah, and Wyoming. It is legal in California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Oregon, Vermont,

🗂 and Washington.v 🏾

Assisted suicide is not the same as eutha-NTT nasia, in cases of euthanasia another party acts to bring about the person's death BAR

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Requesting Assisted Suicide: its complicated)

First Oral Request

A. You may make the initial oral you make your request ("attending physician") must be licensed in the state in which you are making the request and the request must take place on that state's terri-0 C R III tory. B. You can rescind the request at

any time in the process. Your attending physician must confirm you meet all of the eligibility criteria. Your physician must also inform you of alternatives, including palliative care, hospice and pain management options, and ask that you notify your next-ofkin of the prescription request. A second, consulting physician must confirm the diagnosis, prognosis, and your mental competence.

C. If either physician determines that your judgment is impaired in any way, e.g. by a mental illness or depression, they must refer you for a psychological or psychiatric evaluation.

D. If your first oral request is authorized, you must wait a minimum of 15 (fifteen) days to make the second oral request.

Second Oral Request

A. You may make your second oral request at any time after the 15day waiting period (20-day waiting

period in Hawaii).

Written Request A. You must also make a written request which you can write to your attending physician at any time following the first oral request, using the statutory form included in your state's aid-indying law (see links at the bottom $"_{
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of the page).

B. The written request must be request for medication under aid-² witnessed by two individuals, at in-dying laws at the time of your least one of whom is not related Echoosing. The physician to whom to you, entitled to any portion of your estate, or an employee of the health care facility caring for you. Your physician is not eligible to be a witness.

C. Under the District of Columbia, Hawaii (2019), Oregon, Vermont, and Washington statutes, the physician must wait 48 hours from the time of receiving the written request to write the prescription.

Prescription

A. After you complete all of the above steps, your physician will write the prescription. B. The physician may either dispense the medication to you themselves or deliver the prescrip-# tion to a pharmacy in person or by mail. You will not receive your prescription in your hands. C. You may fill the prescription at any time after the final waiting period, if applicable, or you may choose not to fill it at all. You, your physician, or your express designee may pick up the medications from the pharmacy.

As long as you go through all the steps required by the law to obtain the medication, your life insurance benefits should be unaffected. The cause of your death on your death certificate, for the documentation by the life insurance company, will be listed as the disease that your doctors expect will cause your death in the next weeks or months.

Text Gathered From:

Dignity Laws." Death With Dignity, www.deathwithdignity.org/learn/access/.

Older white, educated people use the law most frequently. State health data showed that 97 percent of people who opted for physician-aided dying were white, and 91 percent were over the age of 55. Along gender lines, the split was roughly even - 51 percent male, 49 percent female - and 72 percent had at least some college attendance.

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The medication is effective. Only six patients awakened after getting a lethal dose, making the medications 99.4 percent effective. Relatively few patients experienced side effects such as

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Some Stats

Why Brittany "Aynard, 29, Jans to Jher life 1 less that 3 weeks 175 Not everyone takes the drugs. In Oregon, 1,545 prescriptions were written between the years 1998-2015, and 991 people - 64 percent - ingested the medication and subsequently died.

Patients with cancer predominantly use the law. According to the data, 77 percent of patients who died had cancer as an underlying terminal illness, followed by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, respiratory and cardiac disease, and HIV/AIDS.

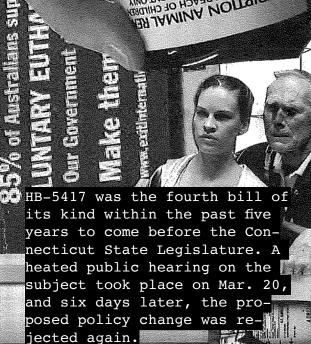
From 1998-2013, the number of Oregon prescriptions written annually increased an average of 12 percent. During both 2014 and 2015, the number increased 24



from 2016, 67 percent of Americans agree with the statement, "When a person is facing a painful terminal disease, it is morally acceptable to ask for a physician's aid in taking his or

🔭 In LifeWay Research's survey

Text Gathered From: "SWOG Publishes Key Statistics on 18 Years of Physician-Aid-in-Dying in Oregon." SWOG Cancer Research Network, www.swog.org/news-events/news/2017/11/07/swog-publishes-key-statistics-18-years-physician-aid-dying-oregon. Smietana, Bob. "Most Americans Say Assisted Suicide Is Morally Acceptable." LifeWay Research, 6 Dec. 2016, lifeWayresearch.com/2016/12/06/most-americans-say-assisted-suicide-is-morally-acceptable/.



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lext Gathered From: Glesby, Laura. "Rewriting Death and Dignity — The Yale Herald." The Yale Herald, The Yale Herald, 13 Apr. 2018, yaleherald.com/rewriting-death-and-dignity-4ca-0f41a37fe.

'Connecticut Euthanasia Laws." Findlaw, statelaws.findlaw.com/connecticut-law/connecticut-euthanasia-laws.html.

FRONTLINE



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emeration in the Constitution Connecticut shall not be construed to der others retained by the pe ____Quinnipiac poll found support was 63 percent to UPPOL31 percent among men, 58 percent to 33 percent among women, 51 percent to 42 percent among Re-

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publicans, 66 percent to 28 percent among Democrats and 63 percent to 31 percent among independents.

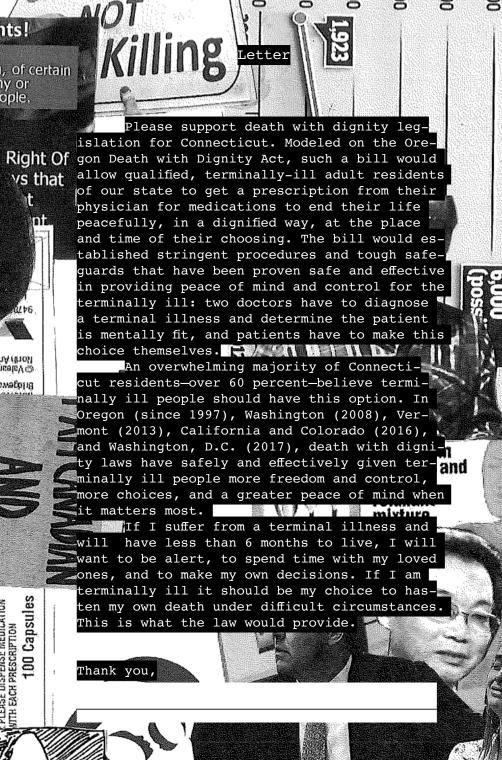
> On September 27, 1980 two young men from the Stonington-Ledyard area, Brian Taylor and William King, helped their best friend, a former high school football star named Kenneth Wright, commit suicide because he did not want to live after becoming a paraplegic. He had been accidently injured in 1978 during an informal wrestling match with a friend. The two men helped Wright pick up a shotgun he owned from where it was stored, assisted him in cutting eight inches off the barrel, drove him to a section of woods off Rte. 214, pushed and carried him in his wheelchair out into the woods, and left him alone. The men later called the state police to express concern about their friend

saying that he had wanted to do some hunting and shooting. They met the police, went to the wooded area where they had left 2000 (N 19) Wright, and found him dead from a gunshot wound in his abdomen. The police investigated and concluded that the two men had assisted Wright to commit suicide and they were charged under CGS § 53a-56. State's Attorney C. Robert Satti wanted to prosecute. He was quoted in the Hartford Courant to the effect that Wright Thad said that he would rather be dead than live in the condition he was in and also that Wright's mother did not want Taylor or King sent to prison, or even prosecuted for that matter, because they had been her son's best friends. However, he felt they had to be prosecuted under the law.

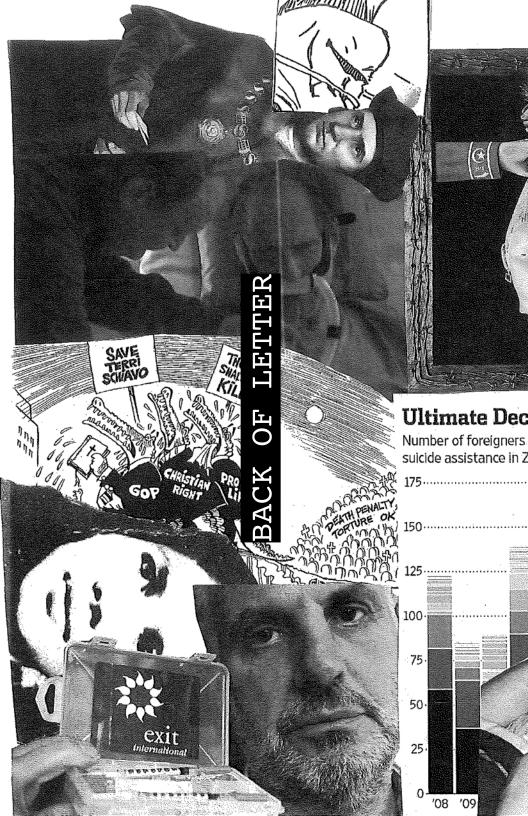
In April 1981, Taylor and King plead guilty, apparently because they believed the state had enough evidence to convict them and also because their lawyer indicated that they would probably receive more lenient sentences in return for their pleas. Judge Seymour Hendel granted the two men suspended sentences and pro-

bation

Text Gathered From: Pazniokas, Mark. "Poll Finds Broad Support for Assisted Suicide in Connecticut." The CT Mirror, The CT Mirror, 7 Mar. 2014, ctmirror. org/2014/03/06/poll-finds-broad-support-for-assisted-suicide-in-con-G "Two Assisted Suicide Cases in Connecticut." Summary of Federal "USA PATRIOT Act", The Connecticut General Assembly Office of Legislature, 17 Mar. 1994, www.cga.ct.gov/PS94/rpt/olr/htm/94-R-0396.htm.) 🚡



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"Connecticut Euthanasia Laws." 200 Findlaw, statelaws.findlaw.com/ connecticut-law/connecticut-eu-essons Learn thanasia-laws.html.

<u>Perek Hump</u> Death With Dignity Connecticut. Death With Dignity, www.deathwithdignity.org/states/connecti-

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