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## What can I do?

“Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness, rather expose them” (Ephesians 5:11).

Get educated. Maryland Right to Life ([mdrtl.org](http://mdrtl.org)) has resources as does The Dignity Mandate ([thedignitymandate.org](http://thedignitymandate.org)). Contact your legislators to tell them to vote against legalizing assisted suicide. Spread the word. Comfort, encourage, and aid those who have been given terminal diagnoses. Help them to realize that they are not burdens and that they are beloved works of God. No person should feel that the world would be better without his presence. Finally, pray.

## What about my end-of-life care?

A “Durable Power-of-Attorney for Health Care” is preferred rather than a Living Will, because Living Wills require you to make tomorrow’s health decisions today when you do not have all the facts. No one would do this with his finances (e.g., “Do *this* with my money no matter what”). Why do it with our health and lives?

The Patients’ Rights Council ([patientsrightscouncil.org](http://patientsrightscouncil.org)) is an excellent resource for information on a “Durable Power-of-Attorney for Health Care.”

“I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11). God has a plan for each of us.

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## Eight Principles for End-of-Life Care that respect our most basic God-given right: the right to life.

1. We do not have the right to take our own lives, nor to directly bring about the death of any innocent person.
2. Each of us is obliged to use “ordinary” means to preserve his life, notably those that provide a reasonable hope of benefit.
3. No patient is obliged to accept or demand useless or “extraordinary” medical interventions.
4. The human person always has dignity, even in suffering. A person is never a vegetable.
5. Even when we cannot cure, we can care.
6. Food and water are required unless it is futile, or death is imminent. Food and water are rights, not medicine, and therefore must not be withheld.
7. Patients in end-stage conditions or a persistent unconscious state possess dignity and deserve good care.
8. Preparation for death can be a beautiful time to reconcile with family, friends, and God.

Right to Life of Montgomery County

PO Box 10682, Rockville, MD 20849-0682

(301) 770-LIFE

[rtlmcmd.com](http://rtlmcmd.com)

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## Beware ...

“end-of-  
life option”

“medical aid  
in dying”

“compassion  
and choices!”

**There ARE wolves in sheep’s clothing.**

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**“Thou shalt not kill.”**

**God**

**Exodus 20:15, Deuteronomy 5:17**

There are efforts in Maryland to pass a law that would permit assisted suicide. This would allow a physician to prescribe a deadly dose of medicine for a patient with a terminal diagnosis. The patient fills the prescription and takes the lethal drug on his own when he desires.

Many people fear the dying process. Others are afraid of being a burden to their loved ones. We live in a secular world in which supporters of assisted suicide have created the illusion that taking your own life is a dignified way to die because it puts you in control. In reality, the person is destroyed by a death void of meaning or hope.

When we categorize a person as belonging to a certain class—in this instance, the terminally ill—we can fail to see the person as an individual. And if we justify the killing of one person, it is easy to justify the killing of any person.

Our Christian Faith tells us how much God loves and cares for us. We need not be afraid. Our Christian Faith also tells us how we are to love God and care for others.

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**“Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart”**

**Matthew 22:37**

God created us to have life, life to the fullest. We are called to live as children of the light, for light produces every kind of goodness, righteousness, and truth. We must do what is pleasing to the Lord. As Augustine of Hippo wrote in the fifth century: *It is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it, indeed if he requests it because, hanging between life and death, he begs for help in freeing the soul struggling against the bonds of the body and longing to be released; nor is it licit even when a sick person is no longer able to live.*

If we start deciding when life should end, we put ourselves in God’s place and throw out His plan. And we tell God that life has no dignity beyond our feelings. As the Position Paper of the Abrahamic Monotheistic Religions on Matters Concerning the End of Life says: euthanasia and assisted suicide “fundamentally contradict the inalienable value of human life, and therefore are inherently and consequentially morally and religiously wrong and should be forbidden without exceptions.”

God never said, “Thou shalt not kill except when it is convenient for you.” But Jesus did say, “Whatever you do to the least of my brethren you do unto Me.”

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**“You shall love your  
neighbor as yourself.”**

**Matthew 22:39**

“My neighbor is dying and doesn’t want to burden anyone” is a common argument put forth by those who support assisted suicide. For Christians, nobody is a burden. People are blessings.

Assisted suicide contradicts the purpose of the medical profession. Doctors are trained to DO NO HARM, as stated in the Hippocratic Oath. The American Medical Association has repeatedly opposed doctor-assisted suicide. Pharmacists are affected by assisted suicide since they can be forced to go against their moral, religious, or ethical convictions.

And of course, people with disabilities are very concerned that legalizing assisted suicide will put pressure on them to end their lives.

Last but not least, assisted suicide tells the world, especially the young, that “Life is cheap, very cheap. If you are not enjoying it, give it up. No one cares about you.”

As Christians, we must give a different message to the world. Life is not cheap; life is precious. Life might not be easy and fun, but it always has meaning and incomparable value.