End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Anonymous

I agree that a person should be able to request end of life assistance from a registered medical practitioner.

I agree with the other points listed in the Bill with the exception that perhaps the age of consent should be increased to 21 years.

Great care has to be taken to ensure that this facility is not abused and that the person receiving assistance is, when making the decision, fully aware of their rights and their family informed of their decision.

I worked for about 10 years with the Department of Human Genetics in the WGH before I retired. In our department we had some of the Family Care Officers for Motor Neurone Disease, Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy, Huntington's Chorea, Cystic Fibrosis, etc., and I found the whole subject of Human Genetics fascinating. Of course, I was so glad my siblings and myself had established our families without uncovering any hidden mutations or family diseases. My heart went out to those who did have to contend with all the trials of having children with a death sentence over their heads. I have always been of the mind that what is most important is "quality of life" which can be different for everyone.

This only prolongs an unbearable way of life for no advantage. We had discussed this after seeing a neighbour undergo this procedure and then he continually pulled out the tubes until they (the medical staff) left him alone for nature to take it's course. When inserting feeding tubes into the stomach the medical staff MUST ENSURE that the family are aware of what "quality of life" can be expected. Too often the family are of the opinion that full quality of life will be restored and this is not the case. This is a subject that should be discussed more often, but then some folks don't want to face up to the possibility of it ever happening to them.

Anonymous

9th May. 2010