

The Hospice Life Pledge

I affirm the value of all human life regardless of age, disability, or the disease process involved, and reject the prevailing notion that some lives are less worthy to be lived than others.

I reject the practice of assisting a suicide, performing euthanasia, or terminally-sedating a patient (who has no extreme agitation or extremely severe, uncontrollable pain) with the intent to impose death in health care.

I affirm that supportive medical care must be provided to all individuals.



Nutrition and hydration, and other treatments such as antibiotics, x-rays, bone-setting, etc., are basic human needs (ordinary palliative care), and provision for those needs sometimes requires medical expertise and technology.

These basic human needs should not be withheld or withdrawn unless they cannot be absorbed or are unusually burdensome for an individual, an individual is in the final stage of a terminal condition, the individual's death is truly imminent, and not intended.

Palliative care and hospice programs that respect life and do not intentionally hasten death must address the proper treatment and care of the living person who appears to be close to death. Palliative care and hospice programs which serve those nearing the end-of-life should be encouraged.

These programs should provide medical, informational, emotional, psychological, and spiritual support as well as the management of symptoms in order to make that individual's last days as normal and comfortable as possible.