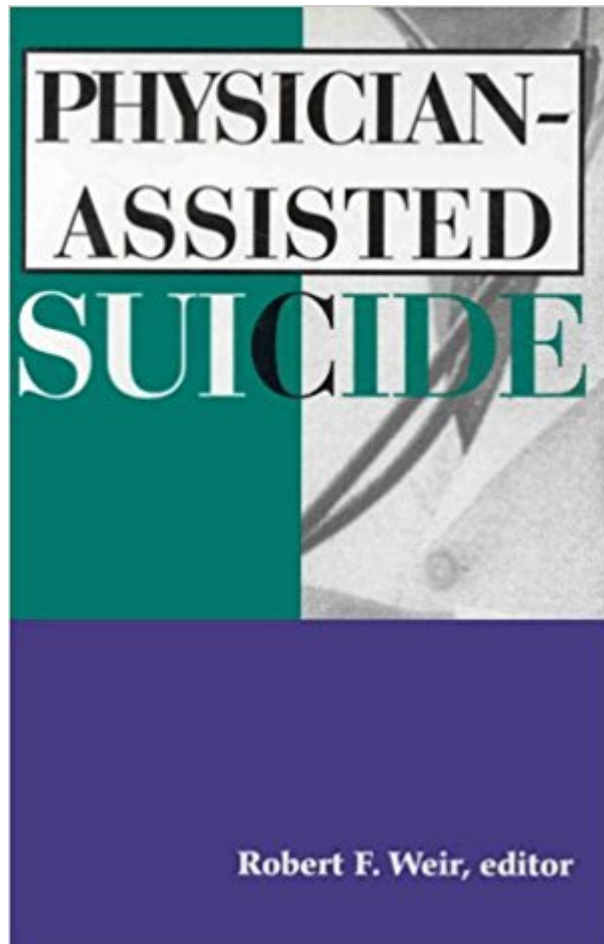




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Physician-Assisted Suicide



Synopsis

"The book is extremely well balanced: in each section there is usually an argument for and against the positions raised. It is a useful and well-thought-out text. It will make people think and discuss the problems raised, which I think is the editor's main purpose." —Journal of Medical Ethics "... a volume that is to be commended for the clarity of its contributions, and for the depth it gains from its narrow focus. In places, this is a deeply moving, as well as closely argued, book."

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Page 9; Physician-Assisted Suicide continues in the fine tradition of the Medical Ethics series published by Indiana University Press. Chapters are authored by outstanding scholars from both sides of the debate, providing a balanced, in-depth exploration of physician-assisted suicide along clinical, ethical, historical, and public policy dimensions. It is important reading for those who want to better understand the complex, multilayered issues that underlie this emotionally-laden topic." —Timothy Quill, M.D. "Robert Weir has produced the finest collection of essays on physician assisted dying yet assembled in one volume. Physician assisted dying involves ethical and legal issues of enormous complexity. The deep strength of this anthology is its multi-disciplinary approach, which insightfully brings to bear interpretations from history, moral philosophy, religion, clinical practice, and law. This is a subject, much like abortion, that has divided America. This volume provides balanced scholarship that will help inform opinions from the hospital and hospice bedside to the halls of federal and state legislatures and courtrooms." —Lawrence O. Gostin, Co-Director, Georgetown/Johns Hopkins Program on Law and Public Health "This book is a timely and valuable contribution to the debate. Highly recommended for academic collections."

—Library Journal "These essays shed light and perspective on today's hotly contested issue of physician-assisted suicide. The authors were selected not only because of their experience and scholarship, but also because they provide readers with differing points of view on this complex subject and a potential moral quandary for us all."

Book Information

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This collection of essays by noted academics provides compelling arguments for and against physician-assisted suicide. As in the Report of the Committee on Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia (Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior, v. 26, suppl., 1996), Weir (director of the Program in Medical Ethics and Medical Humanities, Univ. of Iowa Coll. of Medicine) takes no position on physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia but emphasizes the need for further research and education. The essays presented here examine historical interpretations, ethical positions, medical practices and perspectives, considerations for vulnerable patients, and public policy, all of which influence judicial deliberations. Although they represent a range of positions, all the essays advocate a cautionary approach to policy formation. The U.S. Supreme Court is currently examining physician-assisted suicide in the case of *Compassion in Dying v. State of Washington* (U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 1996 WL 94848 [Wash.]) and is expected to hand down a decision by the fall. This book is a timely and valuable contribution to the debate. Highly recommended for academic collections. Mary Hemmings, Univ. of Calgary Law Lib., Alberta Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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