

RELIGIOUS STATEMENT - CATHOLIC PATIENTS

I am Catholic. Any decision my agent makes must be consistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church relevant to health care, which are summarized as follows:

- (a) Death is neither to be feared and avoided at all costs, nor to be sought and directly procured.
- (b) Euthanasia is not permitted. (Euthanasia is defined as the intentional ending of human life by act or omission in order to relieve suffering.)
- (c) The use of medicine to treat severe pain is acceptable even if it shortens life.
- (d) It is not necessary to use all life-sustaining treatments. One does not have an obligation to use a treatment if its risks or burdens are disproportionate to its expected results or benefits. The concept of burden is broad and must be individually assessed; it includes aspects such as pain, costs, risks, and inconvenience of the treatment as perceived by the person.

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