

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 14
Submitted by: Myles Collins
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Advance Health Directives are already enshrined in law. In regards to medical treatments, an individual's rights must be upheld, provided that capacity is demonstrated. If a terminal patient has an AHD (a DNR) in place prior to undergoing a surgical procedure, and during the surgery the patient dies on the operating table, the patients' wishes are followed and the result is death. No first requests, second requests, assessments or review boards come into play because the ADH already exists.

The way that this proposed bill is framed, the request and assessment process would take a very long time to execute, thereby adding to the suffering of the patient.

As current laws allow for AHDs, then the thrust of this proposed bill should surely be more in favour of the applicant than the assessors, given that capacity is properly established in each and every case.