



## Principles Governing Medical Treatment Decisions

Life is a gift from God over which we have stewardship but not absolute control.

The first duty of any medical person is to do no harm.

### For A Dying Person

If death is imminent and the dying process is irreversible, there is no obligation to provide or continue treatment that offers no hope of recovery.

If death is imminent and the dying process is irreversible, the dying person still has the right to comfort care and pain relief.

Death should be the result of illness or injury and should not be caused by dehydration or starvation when food and water can be provided using normal, ordinary medical treatment methods.

### For A Person Who Is Not Dying

If it is uncertain whether or not a person is dying, normal medical treatment should be provided to give that person the chance for survival.

### If Death Is Uncertain

If someone is not dying but has a chronic disabling condition (including brain injury), that person has the right to ordinary medical treatment including food and water as well as comfort care.