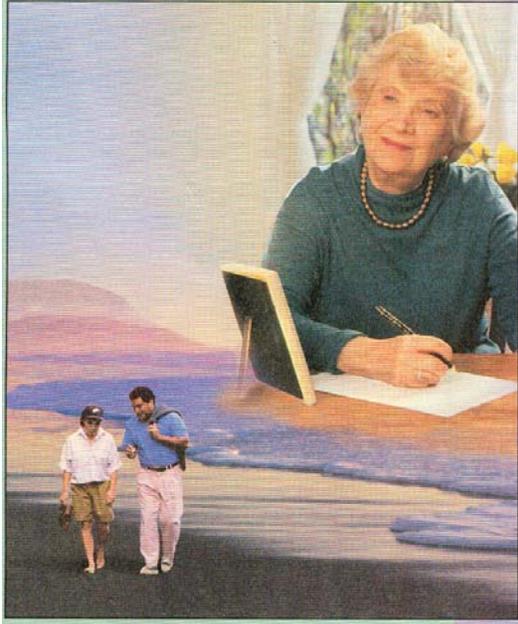


UC Davis Health System booklet
*Advance Medical Directives:
Your Wishes for Future Medical Care*

Description

16 pages (including covers) soft-cover booklet (5" × 14"). © 1996, Krames [Patient] Communications, 1100 Grundy Lane, San Bruno, CA 94066-3030. (800) 333-3032
<http://65.201.6.68/krames/product.asp?dept%5Fid=1480&sku=1771>
"#1771 Advance Medical Directives (Low Lit)"



Cover: 6" × 4" color photographic composition. A well dressed, well coiffed elderly woman looking on wistfully with a smile on her face, sits at a desk, her hand resting on a sheet of paper holding a pen, a picture resting on the desk. The desk pans into purplish surf at sunset, and a man in his '30s walking on the beach explaining something to a young teenage boy. (Given the content of the booklet, the implication seems to be that the woman's son is explaining to the boy, "Grandma loved us so much that she didn't want to burden us by trying to cling to life after she had lived her time." The booklet later betrays the hidden subject of economic interest - an intrinsic conflict of interest despite the publication's dispassionate posture - on page 4, "Your Values," [question 11](#): [How important is it for you to?] *Leave money to my family or a cause I believe in.*)

Page 2: 1" × 2" b&w photo of a less-self-assured elderly woman, her face expressing mild grief. Caption: "*My husband didn't make an advance directive. Now, he can't tell us what he wants... We don't know what to do.*"

The booklet offers Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders as a reasonable alternative, and pre-conditions elderly and chronically ill patients toward the acceptance of life-ending, rather than life-sustaining, medical choices.

Page 4:

4" × 3" color photo: A smiling, vigorous-looking elderly man kneels on one leg, tousling the hair of a golden retriever dog, a cane poised beneath his arm.

Your Quality of Life

- What things give meaning to your life? If you lost some of them, how would you feel?
 - Answering the questions below can help you decide. You may want to talk with family, close friends, or a counselor, too.
1. What do you fear most about being seriously ill or injured?
 2. How would you feel if you couldn't do the things you enjoy most?
 3. How would you feel if you couldn't get around by yourself or think for yourself?
 4. Would you want to be moved from your present home?
 5. Would you want to be in a nursing home or hospital at the end of your life?

(This booklet reveals its stake in the domain of the culture of death, by the scant, token respect that is paid to the normal healthcare concern for well-being and life. The overwhelmingly fear oriented list, above, would be more appropriate in an advertisement for burial plots and caskets, or in a lawyer's exhortation for clients to make out their wills. Pope John-Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (§19) comments on "an extreme concept of subjectivity" in an individual's self-valuation of life: "The mentality which tends to equate personal dignity with the capacity for verbal and explicit, or at least perceptible, communication [presupposes that] there is no place in the world for anyone who...is a weak element in the social structure, or ...appears completely at the mercy of others and radically dependent on them....In this case it is force which becomes the criterion for choice and action in interpersonal relations and in social life." The booklet's regime of fear sets up elders and the disabled for a predetermined "choice" to die that is inevitable and unavoidable - far from "choice in dying.")

Your Values

Read each statement below. How important is it for you to do each of these things? Very important? Somewhat important? Not very important? Check the box that best describes your feelings.

		Importance		
		Very	Somewhat	Not Very
1.	Care for myself			
2.	Get out of bed every day.			
3.	Go out on my own.			
4.	Recognize family and friends.			
5.	Talk to and understand others.			
6.	Decide things for myself.			
7.	Stay in my home as long as I live.			
8.	Live without a lot of pain.			
9.	Live without needing medical treatment or machines to keep me alive.			
10.	Pay my own expenses.			
11.	Leave money to my family or a cause I believe in.			
12.	Be faithful to my beliefs.			
13.	Live as long as I can.			
14.	Try all medical treatment possible.			
15.	Not linger before I die.			

A rating of these questions by 4 subjectively selected categories, yields a finding that a majority of the 15 questions above are moderately or profoundly negative in cast, and only a small minority are positive in character. The rating categories are:

I – Idealism	S - Self Image & Autonomy
M - Minimal Functioning	E - Extreme Measures

The 15 questions were casually rated with the following results:

1	M	5	M	9	E	13	E
2	M	6	M	10	S	14	E
3	M	7	E	11	I	15	E
4	M	8	E	12	I		

A count of the ratings yielded these results:

Idealism – 2	Self Image & Autonomy - 1
Minimal Functioning - 6	Extreme Measures - 6

A casual assignment of the ratings (along with their counts) in a 2-dimensional “truth-window” by criteria of necessity and desirability, yields the following:

<i>"Truth Window"</i>		Necessary	Unnecessary
Desirable		Self Image & Autonomy - 1	Idealism - 2
Undesirable		Minimal Functioning - 6	Extreme Measures - 6

Irrespective that the criteria and ratings are subjective, a clear majority of the 15 questions (12 out of the 15, or 80%) are of a moderately to profoundly negative cast. In view of the euthanasia-oriented context of the booklet , this check-list is therefore highly weighted toward a pre-determined outcome, that normal end-of-life debility and distress are intolerable and must be avoided by means of extreme measures.