

WHAT IS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY

****UNDERSTANDING THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY: A COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO END-OF-LIFE CHOICES****

WHAT IS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY IS A QUESTION THAT OFTEN ARISES WHEN PEOPLE EXPLORE TOPICS RELATED TO ASSISTED DYING, RIGHT-TO-DIE MOVEMENTS, OR END-OF-LIFE RIGHTS. THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS HISTORICALLY PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ADVOCATING FOR INDIVIDUALS' RIGHTS TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR OWN DEATHS, ESPECIALLY IN CASES OF TERMINAL ILLNESS OR UNBEARABLE SUFFERING. THIS ARTICLE DELVES INTO THE ORIGINS, MISSION, AND IMPACT OF THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY WHILE SHEDDING LIGHT ON WHY IT REMAINS A PIVOTAL REFERENCE IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE.

THE ORIGINS AND PURPOSE OF THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED IN 1980 BY DEREK HUMPHRY, A JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR WHO BECAME AN ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHT TO DIE AFTER PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH TERMINAL ILLNESS WITHIN HIS FAMILY. THE SOCIETY'S NAME, "HEMLOCK," REFERS TO THE POISONOUS PLANT FAMOUSLY USED BY THE PHILOSOPHER SOCRATES TO END HIS LIFE, SYMBOLIZING VOLUNTARY DEATH AS A PERSONAL CHOICE.

AT ITS CORE, THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY AIMED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, SUPPORT, AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS CONSIDERING END-OF-LIFE OPTIONS THAT INCLUDED ASSISTED SUICIDE. IT SOUGHT TO EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF DYING WITH DIGNITY. THIS ORGANIZATION BECAME A BEACON FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVED THAT INDIVIDUALS FACING UNBEARABLE PAIN OR TERMINAL ILLNESS SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION TO CHOOSE A PEACEFUL, PAINLESS DEATH.

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S ROLE IN THE RIGHT-TO-DIE MOVEMENT

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THE RIGHT-TO-DIE DEBATE INTO THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT. BEFORE ITS FORMATION, DISCUSSIONS AROUND EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE WERE OFTEN TABOO, BURIED UNDER LAYERS OF LEGAL AND MORAL CONTROVERSY. THE SOCIETY CHALLENGED THESE NORMS BY ADVOCATING FOR TRANSPARENCY AND LEGAL REFORMS.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AND ADVOCACY

- ****EDUCATION AND INFORMATION:**** THE SOCIETY PRODUCED LITERATURE, HOSTED SEMINARS, AND PROVIDED COUNSELING TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE MEDICAL, LEGAL, AND EMOTIONAL COMPLEXITIES OF ASSISTED DYING.
- ****LEGAL EFFORTS:**** THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY SUPPORTED LEGISLATION AIMED AT LEGALIZING PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IN VARIOUS STATES ACROSS THE U.S., CONTRIBUTING TO LANDMARK CASES AND PUBLIC POLICY DEBATES.
- ****SUPPORT NETWORKS:**** IT CREATED SAFE SPACES FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES TO DISCUSS THEIR OPTIONS WITHOUT FEAR OF JUDGMENT, OFFERING EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DURING DIFFICULT TIMES.

WHY THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY MATTERS TODAY

WHILE THE ORIGINAL HEMLOCK SOCIETY AS IT WAS FOUNDED NO LONGER EXISTS UNDER THAT NAME—IT MERGED WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND EVOLVED INTO WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS COMPASSION & CHOICES—THE LEGACY OF THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY CONTINUES. ITS PIONEERING WORK HAS INFLUENCED LAWS IN STATES LIKE OREGON, WASHINGTON, AND CALIFORNIA, WHICH HAVE LEGALIZED PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED DYING UNDER STRICT SAFEGUARDS.

UNDERSTANDING ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA THROUGH THE LENS OF THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON REASONS PEOPLE ASK, “WHAT IS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY?” IS BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS OF ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA. THE SOCIETY PROVIDED CLARITY ON THESE ISSUES, EMPHASIZING INFORMED CONSENT, AUTONOMY, AND COMPASSIONATE CARE.

WHAT ASSISTED SUICIDE MEANS

ASSISTED SUICIDE INVOLVES A PERSON VOLUNTARILY ENDING THEIR OWN LIFE WITH THE HELP OF ANOTHER, USUALLY A PHYSICIAN WHO PROVIDES THE NECESSARY MEANS, SUCH AS PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION. THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY ADVOCATED FOR THE RIGHT OF TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS TO ACCESS THIS OPTION LEGALLY AND ETHICALLY.

HOW EUTHANASIA DIFFERS

EUTHANASIA TYPICALLY REFERS TO A PHYSICIAN OR ANOTHER PARTY ACTIVELY ENDING A PATIENT’S LIFE TO RELIEVE SUFFERING. THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED THIS FROM ASSISTED SUICIDE, FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON EMPOWERING PATIENTS TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS RATHER THAN HAVING OTHERS MAKE THOSE DECISIONS FOR THEM.

THE ETHICAL AND LEGAL CHALLENGES SURROUNDING THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY’S MISSION

THE WORK OF THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY HAS ALWAYS BEEN SURROUNDED BY INTENSE DEBATE, INVOLVING ETHICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS.

ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES

SUPPORTERS ARGUE THAT THE RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT, EMPHASIZING PERSONAL AUTONOMY AND RELIEF FROM SUFFERING. CRITICS, HOWEVER, RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT POTENTIAL ABUSES, THE VALUE OF LIFE, AND THE SLIPPERY SLOPE TOWARD NON-VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA.

LEGAL LANDSCAPE AND CHANGES

SINCE THE 1980S, MANY JURISDICTIONS HAVE GRAPPLED WITH LAWS RELATED TO ASSISTED DYING. THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY’S ADVOCACY HELPED PAVE THE WAY FOR LEGISLATION SUCH AS OREGON’S DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT. THESE LAWS TYPICALLY INCLUDE SAFEGUARDS LIKE:

- TERMINAL ILLNESS DIAGNOSIS WITH A LIMITED LIFE EXPECTANCY
- MULTIPLE PHYSICIAN APPROVALS
- WAITING PERIODS AND MENTAL COMPETENCE ASSESSMENTS

THESE MEASURES AIM TO ENSURE THAT THE DECISION TO END ONE'S LIFE IS VOLUNTARY, INFORMED, AND FREE FROM COERCION.

HOW THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S JOURNEY DID NOT END WITH ITS INITIAL EFFORTS. OVER TIME, IT MERGED WITH OTHER GROUPS TO FORM COMPASSION & CHOICES, BROADENING ITS MISSION TO INCLUDE A WIDE SPECTRUM OF END-OF-LIFE ISSUES BEYOND ASSISTED SUICIDE.

FROM HEMLOCK SOCIETY TO COMPASSION & CHOICES

THIS EVOLUTION REFLECTS THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF END-OF-LIFE CARE, ENCOMPASSING PALLIATIVE CARE, HOSPICE SUPPORT, ADVANCE DIRECTIVES, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT DYING WELL. COMPASSION & CHOICES CONTINUES TO HONOR THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S VISION BY ADVOCATING FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE OPTIONS AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR PATIENTS.

MODERN-DAY IMPACT

TODAY, THE RIGHT-TO-DIE MOVEMENT BENEFITS FROM THE FOUNDATION LAID BY THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY. ITS INFLUENCE IS SEEN IN INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS, MORE NUANCED LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, AND A GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF PATIENT AUTONOMY IN END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS.

WHY LEARNING ABOUT THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY IS IMPORTANT

DISCUSSING WHAT IS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY OPENS THE DOOR TO BROADER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DEATH, DYING, AND PERSONAL CHOICE—TOPICS OFTEN AVOIDED IN EVERYDAY LIFE. UNDERSTANDING THIS ORGANIZATION HELPS DEMYSTIFY ASSISTED DYING AND HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPASSIONATE, ETHICAL APPROACHES TO END-OF-LIFE CARE.

WHETHER YOU ARE A PATIENT, CAREGIVER, MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL, OR SIMPLY CURIOUS, KNOWING ABOUT THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO A MOVEMENT STRIVING TO BALANCE DIGNITY, AUTONOMY, AND COMPASSION IN ONE OF LIFE'S MOST CHALLENGING MOMENTS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY?

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY, SUPPORTING ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS.

WHEN WAS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY FOUNDED?

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED IN 1980 BY DEREK HUMPHRY, A PROMINENT RIGHT-TO-DIE ADVOCATE.

WHY IS IT CALLED THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY?

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY IS NAMED AFTER THE HEMLOCK PLANT, THE POISON USED IN ANCIENT GREECE FOR THE EXECUTION OF SOCRATES, SYMBOLIZING A PEACEFUL AND DIGNIFIED DEATH.

WHAT SERVICES OR SUPPORT DOES THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY PROVIDE?

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY PROVIDES INFORMATION, COUNSELING, AND ADVOCACY TO INDIVIDUALS SEEKING OPTIONS FOR END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS, INCLUDING ASSISTED DYING.

IS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY STILL ACTIVE TODAY?

THE ORIGINAL HEMLOCK SOCIETY MERGED WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND EVOLVED INTO GROUPS LIKE COMPASSION & CHOICES, CONTINUING ITS MISSION UNDER NEW NAMES.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY: UNDERSTANDING ITS ROLE IN THE RIGHT-TO-DIE MOVEMENT

WHAT IS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY IS A QUESTION THAT OFTEN ARISES IN DISCUSSIONS SURROUNDING ASSISTED SUICIDE, EUTHANASIA, AND THE BROADER RIGHT-TO-DIE MOVEMENT. FOUNDED IN THE EARLY 1980S, THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY EMERGED AS A PIONEERING ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR THE LEGALIZATION OF EUTHANASIA AND PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IN THE UNITED STATES. ITS NAME, REFERENCING THE POISONOUS PLANT USED IN THE EXECUTION OF SOCRATES, SYMBOLIZES THE SOCIETY'S FOCUS ON ENABLING INDIVIDUALS TO CHOOSE A DIGNIFIED DEATH UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. TO FULLY GRASP THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY, ONE MUST EXPLORE ITS ORIGINS, PHILOSOPHY, ACTIVITIES, AND THE LEGACY IT LEFT WITHIN THE COMPLEX ETHICAL AND LEGAL LANDSCAPE OF END-OF-LIFE CHOICES.

ORIGINS AND FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1980 BY DEREK HUMPHRY, A BRITISH-BORN JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR, WHO HAD WITNESSED THE PROLONGED SUFFERING AND PAINFUL DEATH OF HIS WIFE. MOTIVATED BY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND A CONVICTION THAT INDIVIDUALS SHOULD HAVE AUTONOMY OVER THEIR OWN DEATH, HUMPHRY SOUGHT TO CREATE AN ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY. THE SOCIETY'S PRIMARY MISSION CENTERED AROUND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA AND ADVOCATING FOR LEGAL REFORMS TO PERMIT PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE.

FROM ITS INCEPTION, THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY TOOK A FIRM STANCE ON VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA, EMPHASIZING INFORMED CONSENT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOICE FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS. THE TERM "HEMLOCK" ITSELF WAS A DELIBERATE CHOICE, EVOKING HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL CONNOTATIONS RELATED TO DEATH AND MORALITY. THE SOCIETY SOUGHT TO DESTIGMATIZE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DEATH AND ESTABLISH THE RIGHT TO A PAINLESS, PEACEFUL DEATH AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT.

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES AND ADVOCACY

THROUGHOUT THE 1980S AND 1990S, THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE ABOUT EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE. ITS EFFORTS INCLUDED:

- **PUBLIC EDUCATION:** THE SOCIETY PUBLISHED LITERATURE, HELD SEMINARS, AND MAINTAINED A HOTLINE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT END-OF-LIFE OPTIONS, LEGAL RIGHTS, AND METHODS OF ASSISTED DYING.
- **LEGAL ADVOCACY:** IT ACTIVELY SUPPORTED LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES AIMED AT LEGALIZING PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IN VARIOUS STATES, COLLABORATING WITH LAWMAKERS AND ACTIVISTS.
- **SUPPORT SERVICES:** THE ORGANIZATION OFFERED COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE TO INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM TERMINAL ILLNESSES AND THEIR FAMILIES, HELPING THEM NAVIGATE COMPLEX EMOTIONAL AND LEGAL CHALLENGES.

BY FOSTERING OPEN DISCUSSIONS, THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY INFLUENCED PUBLIC OPINION AND HELPED BRING THE RIGHT-TO-DIE DEBATE INTO MAINSTREAM CONSCIOUSNESS. IT CONTRIBUTED TO SHAPING POLICIES AND INSPIRED SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS INTERNATIONALLY.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER RIGHT-TO-DIE ORGANIZATIONS

WHILE THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY WAS A TRAILBLAZER IN THE UNITED STATES, IT EXISTED ALONGSIDE OTHER GROUPS WITH SIMILAR GOALS BUT DIFFERING PHILOSOPHIES OR STRATEGIES. FOR EXAMPLE:

- **COMPASSION & CHOICES:** OFTEN SEEN AS THE SUCCESSOR TO THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY, COMPASSION & CHOICES FOCUSES ON A BROADER SPECTRUM OF END-OF-LIFE CARE OPTIONS, INCLUDING PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE ADVOCACY, ALONGSIDE ASSISTED DYING.
- **DIGNITAS (SWITZERLAND):** UNLIKE THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S PRIMARILY AMERICAN FOCUS, DIGNITAS OPERATES IN SWITZERLAND, WHERE ASSISTED SUICIDE IS LEGAL UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS. DIGNITAS PROVIDES DIRECT ASSISTED DYING SERVICES, WHICH THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY DID NOT OFFER.
- **FINAL EXIT NETWORK:** FOUNDED LATER, THIS ORGANIZATION OFFERS PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SELF-DELIVERANCE, TARGETING A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DEMOGRAPHIC AND APPROACH THAN THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S EDUCATIONAL AND ADVOCACY FOCUS.

THESE DISTINCTIONS HIGHLIGHT THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF RIGHT-TO-DIE ORGANIZATIONS, WITH THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY SERVING A FOUNDATIONAL ROLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONTEXT SURROUNDING THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY UNFOLDED AMID CONTENTIOUS LEGAL AND ETHICAL DEBATES. ASSISTED SUICIDE REMAINS ILLEGAL IN MANY JURISDICTIONS, AND THE ORGANIZATION OFTEN FACED OPPOSITION FROM RELIGIOUS GROUPS, MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS, AND LAWMAKERS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE OR SLIPPERY SLOPES.

ETHICALLY, THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S ADVOCACY FORCED SOCIETY TO CONFRONT QUESTIONS ABOUT AUTONOMY, THE SANCTITY OF LIFE, AND THE ROLE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS. THE ORGANIZATION ARGUED THAT COMPASSIONATE ASSISTANCE IN DYING RESPECTS PATIENT DIGNITY AND ALLEVIATES UNNECESSARY SUFFERING. CRITICS, HOWEVER, WARNED ABOUT POSSIBLE COERCION, THE DEVALUATION OF LIFE, AND THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF SANCTIONING DEATH.

IN LEGAL REALMS, THE SOCIETY'S EFFORTS CONTRIBUTED TO INCREMENTAL CHANGES. FOR INSTANCE, OREGON'S DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT, PASSED IN 1997, WAS A LANDMARK LAW PERMITTING PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE UNDER STRICT CONDITIONS. WHILE THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY WAS NOT THE SOLE DRIVER, ITS ADVOCACY HELPED PAVE THE WAY FOR SUCH LEGISLATION.

PROS AND CONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S APPROACH

ANALYZING THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S IMPACT REQUIRES A BALANCED VIEW OF ITS STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES:

- **PROS:**
 - RAISED AWARENESS ABOUT PATIENT RIGHTS AND END-OF-LIFE OPTIONS.
 - PROVIDED SUPPORT AND INFORMATION TO THOSE CONTEMPLATING ASSISTED DEATH.

- INFLUENCED LEGAL REFORMS AND PROMOTED PUBLIC DIALOGUE.

- **CONS:**

- ENCOUNTERED SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION FROM ETHICAL AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS.
- SOME CRITICS ARGUED IT OVERSIMPLIFIED THE COMPLEXITIES OF END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS.
- DID NOT PROVIDE DIRECT ASSISTED DYING SERVICES, LIMITING PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE.

THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S LEGACY IS THUS CHARACTERIZED BY BOTH ITS PIONEERING ADVOCACY AND THE CONTROVERSIES IT STIRRED.

TRANSFORMATION AND LEGACY

IN 2003, THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY MERGED WITH ANOTHER RIGHT-TO-DIE ORGANIZATION, THE COMPASSION IN DYING FEDERATION, TO FORM COMPASSION & CHOICES. THIS MERGER MARKED A STRATEGIC SHIFT TOWARDS A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO END-OF-LIFE CARE, ENCOMPASSING NOT ONLY ASSISTED SUICIDE BUT ALSO HOSPICE CARE, ADVANCE DIRECTIVES, AND PALLIATIVE MEASURES.

TODAY, COMPASSION & CHOICES CONTINUES MANY OF THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S ORIGINAL MISSIONS BUT OPERATES WITH A BROADER, LESS CONFRONTATIONAL STRATEGY THAT APPEALS TO A WIDER AUDIENCE. THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S HISTORICAL ROLE REMAINS SIGNIFICANT AS THE CATALYST THAT CHALLENGED TABOOS AND LAID GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE REFORMS.

EXPLORING THE QUESTION OF WHAT IS THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY REVEALS A STORY OF COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY AMIDST ETHICAL COMPLEXITIES. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE EVOLVING DISCOURSE ON DEATH, AUTONOMY, AND COMPASSION IN MODERN SOCIETY. THROUGH ITS EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS AND PERSISTENT ACTIVISM, THE HEMLOCK SOCIETY LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON HOW AMERICA AND THE WORLD PERCEIVE THE RIGHT TO DIE.

What Is The Hemlock Society

what is the hemlock society: Let Me Die Before I Wake Derek Humphry, 1992 From the author of the phenomenal #1 national bestseller Final Exit, a collection of moving, true stories about terminally ill people who chose to die on their own terms. Humphry, founder of the National Hemlock Society, provides valuable information on the proper use of lethal drugs to accomplish a death with dignity.

what is the hemlock society: The Nurse's Guide to Consumer Health Web Sites Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, Ruth Chasek, 2001 Back of book copy: This book will help you find the most reliable sources of health information on the Internet. The sites in this book have been selected and reviewed by expert nurses in over 40 specialties. Sites have been reviewed for accuracy, currency, sponsorship, ease of use by the general public, and availability in languages in addition to English. The result is a treasure of information sources for patients and health care professionals. For professionals: This book will help you find the most reliable sources of health information on the Internet for your patients. All the sites in this book have been selected and reviewed by expert nurses in over 40 specialties, most of them nursing educators with doctoral degrees. Sites have been

reviewed for ease of use by the general public, accuracy, currency, sponsorship, and availability in languages besides English. The result is a treasure of information sources, all judged accurate and current by knowledgeable professionals. For consumers: This book will help you find the most reliable sources of health information on the Internet. All the sites in this book have been selected and reviewed by expert nurses in over 40 health specialties. Sites have been reviewed for ease of use by the general public, accuracy, currency, sponsorship, and availability in languages besides English. The result is a treasure of information sources, all judged accurate and current by knowledgeable professionals. All purpose: This book gives both the professional and patient a tool for finding reliable health information on the Internet. All the sites in this book have been selected and reviewed by expert nurses in over 40 specialties, most of them nursing educators with doctoral degrees. Sites have been reviewed for ease of use by the general public, accuracy, currency, sponsorship, and availability in languages besides English. The result is a treasure of information sources, all judged accurate and current by knowledgeable professionals.

what is the hemlock society: Architects of the Culture of Death Donald DeMarco, Benjamin Wiker, 2004 In Architects of the Culture of Death, authors Donald DeMarco and Benjamin Wiker expose the Culture of Death as an intentional and malevolent ideology promoted by influential thinkers who specifically attack Christian morality's core belief in the sanctity of human life and the existence of man's immortal soul. In scholarly, yet reader-friendly prose, DeMarco and Wiker examine the roots of the Culture of Death by introducing 23 of its architects, including Ayn Rand, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Jean-Paul Sartre, Alfred Kinsey, Margaret Sanger, Jack Kevorkian, and Peter Singer.

what is the hemlock society: The Death of Socrates Emily R. Wilson, 2007 Socrates's death in 399 BCE has figured largely in our world, shaping how we think about heroism and celebrity, religion and family life, state control and individual freedom--many of the key coordinates of Western culture. Wilson analyzes the enormous and enduring power the trial and death of Socrates has exerted over the Western imagination.

what is the hemlock society: *Cumulative List of Organizations Described in Section 170 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986* , 1990

what is the hemlock society: **Assisted Suicide - Legal, Medicine, Ethical and Social Issues** Bilirakis Michael Ed, 1998-06 Many people question whether Fed. funds should pay the costs of physician-assisted suicide. This is an extremely difficult and complex issue, especially with regard to a person suffering from a terminal illness or who has a disability. Witnesses include figures from the religious, medical, ethical and patient communities: Lutheran Church-MO Synod; Nat. Assoc. of People w/AIDS; Amer. Med. Assoc.; Oregon Catholic Conf.; George Wash. Univ. Med. Cntr.; Physicians for Compassionate Care; Greek Orthodox Church; Center for Medical Ethics; Amer. Jewish Comm.; Consort. for Citizens w/Disabil.; Amer. Nurse Assoc., and C. Everett Koop.

what is the hemlock society: *Cumulative List of Organizations Described in Section 170 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954* , 2003

what is the hemlock society: Ethical Issues in Neurology James L. Bernat, 2008 Written by an eminent authority from the American Academy of Neurology's Committee on Ethics, Law, and Humanities, this book is an excellent text for all clinicians interested in ethical decision-making. The book features outstanding presentations on dying and palliative care, physician-assisted suicide and voluntary active euthanasia, medical futility, and the relationship between ethics and the law. New chapters in this edition discuss how clinicians resolve ethical dilemmas in practice and explore ethical issues in neuroscience research. Other highlights include updated material on palliative sedation, advance directives, ICU withdrawal of life-sustaining therapy, gene therapy, the very-low-birth-weight premature infant, the developmentally disabled patient, informed consent, organizational ethics, brain death controversies, and fMRI and PET studies relating to persistent vegetative state.

what is the hemlock society: Healing the Culture Robert Spitzer, 2009-10-16 Father Spitzer, President of Gonzaga University, has been using the principles in this book over the last eight years

to educate people of all backgrounds in the philosophy of the pro-life movement. The tremendous positive response he has received inspired him to start the Life Principles Institute. This book is one of the key resources used for this program. This work effectively draws out the connections between personal attitudes toward happiness and the meaning of life, and the larger cultural issues such as freedom and human rights. Relying on the wisdom of the ages and respecting the human persons' unique capacity for rational analysis, this work offers definitions of the key cultural terms affecting life issues, including Happiness, Success, Love, Suffering, Quality of Life, Ethics, Freedom, Personhood, Human Rights and the Common Good.

what is the hemlock society: Social Gerontology Nancy R. Hooyman, H. Asuman Kiyak, 2008 This textbook provides a survey of the field of social gerontology, taking a multi-disciplinary approach to the social aspects of aging and/or working with older adults. The authors demonstrate how age-related changes in the biological, functional, and psychological domains can influence the older person's interactions with his/her social and physical environment. They offer a view that presents aging positively, portraying concepts of active aging and resiliency, and defining productive aging by elaborating on the numerous ways elders contribute to society and their families. Based on the latest research findings, it offers understanding to critical issues of aging, attending to differences by age and cohort, gender, ethnic minority status, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

what is the hemlock society: Liberalism's Troubled Search for Equality Robert Patrick Jones, 2007 Debate surrounding the 1994 Oregon Death with Dignity Act, the first law to legalize physician-assisted suicide (PAS) in America, revealed some surprising contradictions. Most prominently, egalitarian liberal philosophers Ronald Dworkin and John Rawls backed a constitutional right to PAS in direct opposition to many groups of disadvantaged citizens they theoretically supported. These groups argued that legalized PAS in the absence of universal access to health care would potentially coerce the disadvantaged to end their lives prematurely because of inadequate financial resources. In *Liberalism's Troubled Search for Equality*, Robert P. Jones asks why these concerns were dismissed by liberal philosophers and argues that this contradiction exposes a blind spot within liberal political theory.

what is the hemlock society: A Time to Die Charles F. McKhann, 2000-07-11 An examination of the dying process as it is experienced in painful and debilitating diseases from the point of view of the sufferers and their families. The author considers the idea of assisted suicides, and also reflects on religious, moral and legal issues involved in someone's death.

what is the hemlock society: The Right to Die Howard Ball, 2017-01-26 This book provides a comprehensive and contemporary examination of the right-to-die issues facing society now that vast improvements in public health care and medicine have resulted in people not only living longer but taking much longer to die—often in great pain and suffering. In 1900, the average age at which people died in America was 47 years of age; the primary causes of death were tuberculosis and other respiratory illnesses. In the 21st century, as a result of better health care and working conditions as well as advances in medical technology, we live much longer—as of 2016, about 80 years. A much larger proportion of Americans now die from chronic diseases that generally appear at an advanced age, such as heart disease, cancer, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Should this fundamental change in human lifespan alter how society and government view right-to-die legislation? What are the pros and cons of giving a mentally competent person who is terminally ill and in great pain the right to end his or her life? *The Right to Die: A Reference Handbook* provides a complete examination of right-to-die issues in the United States that dissects the complex arguments for and against a person's liberty to receive a physician's assistance to hasten death. It covers the legal aspects and the politics of the right-to-die controversy, analyzes the battles over the right to die in state and federal courts, and supplies primary source documents that illustrate the political, medical, legal, religious, and ethical landscape of the right to die. Additionally, the book examines how members of our society typically die has changed in the past 150 years and how the practice of medicine has evolved over that time; explains why the right to die is strongly opposed by many

religious groups as well as members of the medical profession; considers the slippery slope argument against doctor-assisted suicide; and identifies the reasons that the disabled, the poor, the elderly and infirm, and some members of ethnic, racial, and religious minority groups typically fear physician-assisted death.

what is the hemlock society: *National Organizations Providing HIV/AIDS Services* , 1995

what is the hemlock society: Deathright James M. Hoefler, 2019-04-02 Right-to-die issues are no longer confined to the back corridors of hospitals or the front pages of newspapers that trumpet news of Dr. Kevorkian's latest assisted suicide. A perverse combination of high-tech medicine, consumerism, demographic trends, and economic realities is forcing increasing numbers of Americans and their families to deal with

what is the hemlock society: Counterpublics and the State Robert Asen, Daniel C. Brouwer, 2001-09-27 In the form of demonstrations, social movements, guerrilla warfare, and internet hacktivism, political dissidents or counterpublics challenge the state and assert themselves upon the public stage. At stake in such engagements are profound issues of political and economic redistribution, individual and collective rights, political legitimacy, social stability, and identity. This book explores encounters between marginalized people and states to better understand the contours of social controversy and social transformation borne from conflict.

what is the hemlock society: Dying Right Daniel Hillyard, John Dombink, 2002-06-01 Dying Right provides an overview of the Death With Dignity movement, a history of how and why Oregon legalized physician-assisted suicide, and an analysis of the future of physician-assisted suicide. Engaging the question of how to balance a patient's sense about the right way to die, a physician's role as a healer, and the state's interest in preventing killing, Dying Right captures the ethical, legal, moral, and medical complexities involved in this ongoing debate.

what is the hemlock society: Cumulative List of Organizations Described in Section 170 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 United States. Internal Revenue Service, 1989

what is the hemlock society: *Das medizinisch assistierte Sterben* Adrian Holderegger, 1999

what is the hemlock society: Suicide Prevention David Lester, 2013-08-21 This study presents an evaluation of the past, present and future of suicidal behaviour and efforts to prevent or facilitate suicide. Authors from the varying disciplines of psychology, sociology and psychiatry analyze suicide in the opening chapters. Through the exploration of the roles of these disciplines, the roles of primary physicians, and the impact of suicide prevention education in schools, the contributors describe the history of suicidology and the changes necessary for improvement. The book concludes with a section detailing the goals and activities of organizations designed to prevent or facilitate suicide.

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