

Sample #2

As a member of the Catholic Church, I believe in God who is merciful and in Jesus Christ who is the savior of the world. As the giver of life, God has sent us only begotten Son as a redeemer so that in union with him we might have eternal life. I wish to follow the moral teachings of the Catholic Church and to receive all the obligatory care that my faith teaches we have a duty to accept.

However, I also know that death need not to be resisted by any and every means and that I have the right to refuse medical treatment that is excessively burdensome and would only prolong my death and delay my being taken to God. I also know that I may morally receive medication to relieve pain even if it is foreseen that its use may have the unintended result of shortening my life.

I direct that those caring for me avoid doing anything that is contrary to the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. If I fall terminally ill, I ask that I be told of this so that I might prepare myself for death, and ask that efforts be made that I be attended by a Catholic priest and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing and Viaticum.

I want those making decisions on my behalf to avoid anything that intends and directly causes my death by deed or omission. Medical treatments may be foregone or withdrawn if they do not offer a reasonable hope of benefit to me or if they entail excessive burdens, or impose excessive expense on my family. There should be a presumption in favor of providing me with nutrition and hydration, assuming of course they are of benefit to me.

If death is imminent, even in spite of the means which may be used to conserve my life, and if I have received the Sacraments of the Church, I direct that treatment be foregone or withdrawn that will only maintain a precarious and burdensome prolongation of my life, unless those responsible for my care deem they are special and significant reasons why I should continue to receive such care [to be listed].