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Physician-Assisted Death: Four Views on the Issue of Legalizing PAD: A Legal Research Guide

By **Candle M. Wester-Mittan**

The issues surrounding physician-assisted death (PAD) are not new to the legal arena. However, with the enactment of the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, more attention has been focused on the subject of legalizing PAD during the past decade. Oregon is truly a minority in the United States by allowing legalized PAD. The majority of states have legislation that clearly sets forth they do not condone or authorize assisted death. Since the passing of Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, some states have responded by either amending their laws to include provisions prohibiting PAD or enacting general laws prohibiting assisted death.

The issue of PAD is not limited to the United States. Views both for and against the legalization of PAD can be noted in various international communities. The Netherlands is the most progressive country regarding the right to die, whether by withdrawing treatment, PAD, or doctor-initiated euthanasia.

The basic argument for legalizing PAD is that it gives terminally ill patients the ability to end their pain and suffering. The basic argument against legalizing PAD is that it will cause a slippery slope ending in the possibility of PAD being forced upon terminally ill patients who do not wish to end their lives.

There are four sections to Wester-Mittan's **Physician-Assisted Death**: proponent resources for legalizing PAD, opponent resources against legalizing PAD, resources on neutral treatment for legalizing PAD, and a collection of resources on an international perspective and comparison of the legalization of PAD. Each section contains monographs, law review articles, statutes and other resources that provide users with a foundation on the subject and its legalization.

Enhance your holdings today with this informative guide!

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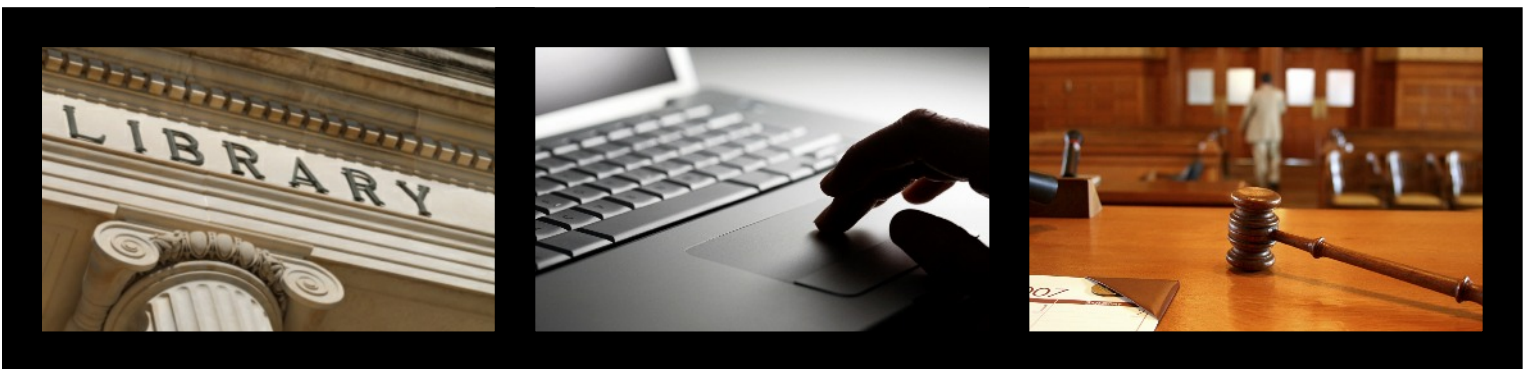
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