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Euthanasia or Death “On One’s Own Will”

Moral and ethical issues and legal aspects of euthanasia are elucidated. The definitions of euthanasia, its types, pros and cons are characterized. Historical roots of the euthanasia issues are explored. Attempts are made to solve a philosophic dilemma – voluntary death or struggle for life. International sources and foreign experience are analyzed, the attitude to the issue of professional communities of medical workers and lawyers are researched. Attention is also paid to the attitude of religion to euthanasia, it is highlighted that the position of the church in terms of euthanasia is an important factor in the development of humanistic ideas and orienting the society in the issues of euthanasia. Several conclusions as regards to the issue of euthanasia are provided, in particular it is pointed out that the problem of euthanasia hasn’t been resolved yet, and the authors are of the view that legalization of euthanasia can have a set of negative consequences.

Key words: active and passive euthanasia, palliative service, dignity and human rights, death/self-killing, legalization of euthanasia.

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