

**Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

**ASSISTED SUICIDE**

416.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A DULY LICENSED PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, PODIATRIST, OSTEOPATH, OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN, OSTEOPATHIC SURGEON, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, REGISTERED NURSE, LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, NURSE PRACTITIONER, DENTIST, OR PHARMACIST.

(3) "SUICIDE" MEANS THE ACT OR INSTANCE OF INTENTIONALLY TAKING ONE'S OWN LIFE.

(B) AN INDIVIDUAL ~~OR LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL~~ MAY NOT, WITH THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING ANOTHER PERSON TO COMMIT OR TO ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE:

(1) KNOWINGLY CAUSE, BY COERCION, DURESS, OR DECEPTION, ANOTHER PERSON TO COMMIT SUICIDE OR TO ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE;

(2) KNOWINGLY PROVIDE THE PHYSICAL MEANS BY WHICH ANOTHER PERSON COMMITS OR ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE PERSON'S INTENT TO USE THE PHYSICAL MEANS TO COMMIT SUICIDE; OR

(3) KNOWINGLY PARTICIPATE IN A PHYSICAL ACT BY WHICH ANOTHER PERSON COMMITS OR ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

(C) (1) A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO ADMINISTERS, PRESCRIBES, OR DISPENSES MEDICATIONS OR PROCEDURES TO RELIEVE PAIN, EVEN IF THE MEDICATION OR PROCEDURE MAY HASTEN OR INCREASE THE RISK OF DEATH, IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, ~~PROVIDED THAT THE MEDICATIONS OR PROCEDURES ARE NOT ALSO ADMINISTERED, PRESCRIBED, OR DISPENSED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CAUSING, OR ASSISTING IN CAUSING, DEATH FOR ANY REASON UNLESS THE MEDICATIONS OR PROCEDURES ARE KNOWINGLY ADMINISTERED, PRESCRIBED, OR DISPENSED TO CAUSE DEATH.~~

(2) A FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS A CARE GIVER FOR A PATIENT ENROLLED IN A LICENSED HOSPICE PROGRAM AND WHO UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTERS OR DISPENSES MEDICATIONS OR PROCEDURES TO RELIEVE PAIN, EVEN IF THE MEDICATION OR PROCEDURE MAY HASTEN OR INCREASE THE RISK OF DEATH, IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION UNLESS THE MEDICATIONS OR PROCEDURES ARE KNOWINGLY ADMINISTERED OR DISPENSED TO CAUSE DEATH.

(2) (3) A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO WITHHOLDS OR WITHDRAWS A MEDICALLY ADMINISTERED LIFE SUSTAINING PROCEDURE IN COMPLIANCE WITH § 5-609 THE HEALTH CARE DECISIONS ACT UNDER TITLE 5,