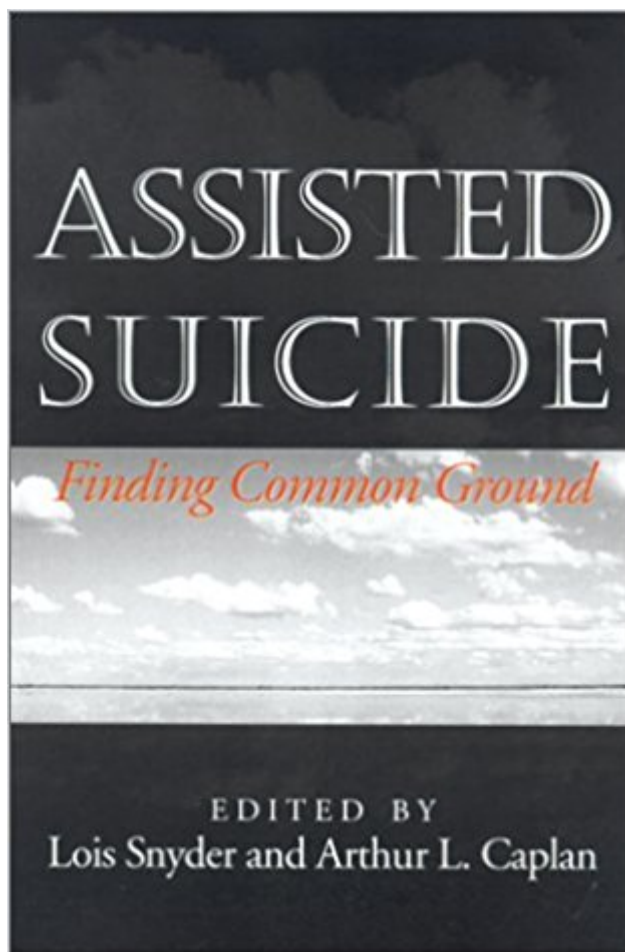


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# Assisted Suicide: Finding Common Ground



## Synopsis

There is no constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide says the U.S. Supreme Court. Most states have laws against it, but states can also allow it, as Oregon has done; others are considering legalization. Still very little guidance has been offered about its practice. *Assisted Suicide: Finding Common Ground* fills that void. A diverse group of experts—some for, some against—provide a framework for thinking about what assisted suicide, particularly physician-assisted suicide, is and how its legalized practice might be guided. The book does not take a position on the continuing debate about the morality or wisdom of legalizing assisted suicide. But physician-assisted suicide is now taking place, and the more pressing concerns are those pertaining to its implementation. Editors Lois Snyder and Art Caplan attempt to find common ground on those real-world concerns. Among the questions asked and answered are: What is assisted suicide? Is physician-assisted suicide different from refusal of treatment? Are there alternatives to assisted suicide? How useful are currently available guidelines for physician-assisted suicide? Who should have access to what? Does assisted suicide necessarily mean physician-assisted suicide? Can the practice be effectively and meaningfully regulated? How should physicians respond to requests for assisted suicide? Assisted suicide is one of the most ethically challenging issues in medicine and bioethics, defining who we are and want to be as individuals and as a society. This book takes a hard look at alternatives to the practice, the implications for the patient-physician relationship, who should write guidelines, and how to regulate physician-assisted suicide and establish safeguards so that it is voluntary and an option of last resort.

## Book Information

Series: Medical Ethics (Book 25)

Hardcover: 248 pages

Publisher: Indiana University Press; 1 edition (December 27, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0253339774

ISBN-13: 978-0253339775

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #3,800,981 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in [Books > Medical](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Lois Snyder is on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania for Bioethics and directs the Center for Ethics and Professionalism at the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine. She is a frequent author and speaker on bioethics, health-care policy, and medical-legal issues. Arthur L. Caplan is Director for The Center for Bioethics at The University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. He is the author or editor of 23 books and more than 500 articles and reviews in journals of medicine, philosophy, biology and public policy.

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