



Advance Requests for Medical Assistance in Dying and Dementia: A Public Conversation About the Dutch Experience and Canadian Developments

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Park, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto**

The recently tabled bill on Medical Assistance in Dying [MAiD] softens the requirement for reconfirmation of a person's request for MAiD and would allow some form of advance request. Advance requests for MAiD will also be discussed by Parliament this summer as part of the 5-year review of the law. Among the contentious issues is whether and in what circumstances people should be able to make an advance request to have MAiD when they have severe dementia and are no longer capable of decision-making. The Netherlands is currently the only country that allows MAiD to be performed on people with severe dementia who are not irreversibly unconscious. Although there is a significant increase in such cases in the Netherlands, the practice remains controversial, as highlighted by a recent criminal case. A discussion of this Dutch case and the Dutch developments by Health Law expert van Beers will be followed by commentaries on the Canadian developments, including on the new Bill, and a discussion with the audience. Commentators include Health Law experts, Medical Practitioners, a MAiD assessor, and include two members of the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel on Advance Requests for MAiD.

(open to the public. For more information : events.law@utoronto.ca)