

## The End-of-Life Advisor: Personal, Legal, and Medical Considerations for a Peaceful, **Dignified Death**

By Susan R Dolan, Audrey R Vizzard



The End-of-Life Advisor: Personal, Legal, and Medical Considerations for a Peaceful, Dignified Death By Susan R Dolan, Audrey R Vizzard

In this simple guide, you'll find both practical step-by-step advice and compassionate, heartfelt guidance to dramatically improve the last days of life. Written by a mother-daughter team of hospice volunteers with experience in nursing, law, and psychology, The End-of-Life Advisor will show you the remarkable benefits of hospice care.

If you're a healthcare or legal professional, you'll discover the important ways you can advise your patients and clients. If you're caring for a loved one, you'll learn how you can help make their last days much more comfortable. If you're planning for yourself, you'll understand the decisions you need to make now – so you can find greater peace down the road.

You'll get basic practical information on the ways a person can make their wishes known and maintain control over their end-of-life experience. This includes living wills, power of attorney for healthcare, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, choosing hospice care, managing pain, increasing comfort ad making after-death plans.

Along the way you'll find inspirational, emotional, and often humorous stories of positive end-of-life experiences – where pain and fear were replaced with comfort and peace.



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"A source of reliable information and guidance for life's last and most difficult situations....Natural story-tellers, the authors deftly tell lively, colorful stories of people caught in extraordinary circumstances to convey lessons that we all would be wise to learn. I will recommend this book to patients and families."

—Ira Byock, MD, Director of Palliative Care, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, New Hampshire, author of Dying Well and The Four Things that Matter Most

"Packed with wisdom, compassion, humor, and most of all hope, this book offers something for everyone. Readers will find an invaluable handbook that touches on every aspect of planning and preparing for excellent end-of-life care." —Barbara Dossey, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAN, International Co-Director, Nightingale Initiative for Global Health, author of *Holistic Nursing* 

"Once I started reading this book I couldn't stop. It seemed like I was reading a diary of my last 25 years as a hospice physician. What a wonderful, extraordinary and uplifting gift. For a long-time 'hospice road warrior,' the book brought not only many smiles and frank laughter, but many tearful moments for me, too...all reminding me that this chosen work is, too, a gift." —Perry G. Fine, MD, Professor of Anesthesiology, Pain Research Center, School of Medicine, University of Utah, author of *The Hospice Companion* 

"Weaving stories from their decades of experience with patients, this mother-daughter team has crafted a true gem. This approachable book illuminates the need for conversations about end-of-life choices and demonstrates the grace of hospice. It is a wonderful tool to enable people of all ages to follow the sage advice, 'From the start, consider the finish.'"—Nathan A. Kottkamp, JD, Chairman, National Healthcare Decisions Day, Healthcare Attorney, McGuireWoods LLP, Richmond, Virginia

"The End-of-Life Advisor is a mandatory resource. Whether you are a patient, their family or support system, a health care professional or a student, *The End-of-Life Advisor* will enhance your knowledge while enriching your spirit!" —Ellen Fink-Samnick LCSW, CCM, CRC, Clinician, Trainer, Educator, EFS Supervision Strategies

#### About the Author

**Susan Riker Dolan, RN, JD**, is a registered nurse and attorney. Susan practiced healthcare and corporate law and served as executive director for a national hospice organization. She is a healthcare consultant and a broadcast host for satellite radio station ReachMD XM 157, the channel for medical professionals.

**Audrey Riker Vizzard, RN, EdD**, is a registered nurse and clinical psychologist. She is a former adjunct professor of psychology at Purdue University and the author of many books and articles. She served as a hospice volunteer and facilitates an ongoing Good Grief Group for seniors actively dealing with care giving and loss. Audrey also serves as the director of her family foundation.

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#### Lee Fuller:

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