

Focus

Fine vita: aspetti etici, giuridici, politici

Autodeterminazione in ordine alla fine della vita. La strada ancora da percorrere in Italia

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Self-Determination at the End of Life. The Route ahead for Italy

Abstract: The recent ruling of the Italian Constitutional Court about the ineligibility of the partially abrogative referendum on the criminal law that sanctions murder of the consenting party is in line with its previous ruling on assisted suicide. Unlike the German and Austrian Constitutional Courts, and also unlike the European Court of Human Rights, the Italian Constitutional Court denies the full autonomy to decide when and how to end one's life. Although, the ruling on the referendum pays special attention to the issue of the quality of the will expressed by the subject. Such will is, in fact, the main object of investigation and concern for those that are dealing with selfdetermination at the end of life. This is a matter that the Italian Parliament, which is discussing a bill about assisted suicide, should consider.

Keywords: Self-determination, End of life, Assisted suicide, Murder of the consenting party.

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