

SPIRITUALITY & MAID – CASE STUDY – “LOUISE”

PRESENTING FACTORS

64 y/o married female, celebrated 40th anniversary recently, two adult children, married with grandchildren on the way

Metastasized terminal cancer, no further treatments available, pain management is failing

Approved for MAiD and approaching scheduled date

SOCIAL/CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

Louise and husband George are long time active members of a church within a more conservative denomination, serving on various teams and committees well into her illness.

George is supportive of her choice as she wants him to remember her in a “better state” and he has always supported her decisions even when he hasn’t been in agreement.

The church has been praying for Louise’s healing since her diagnosis.

Meals and supports had been constant throughout her treatments.

When news got out that Louise was choosing MAiD, all meals, conversations and visits stopped. Prayers now focus on how everyone needs to “make right and Godly choices”.

The minister has admonished them that they are “playing God” and has told George to change Louise’s mind so she doesn’t go to hell.

Louise has asked you what she should do.

Louise has also asked if you would be willing to provide spiritual supports and maybe pray to help her decide.

QUESTIONS:

What are the key issues of this case?

Would you feel comfortable supporting Louise?

How would you address/handle this situation?

What challenges do you foresee in supporting them? In not supporting them?