

Between Protection of Life and Respect for Autonomy Managing Uncertain Will to Live in Advanced Illness

CENTER
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ETHICS



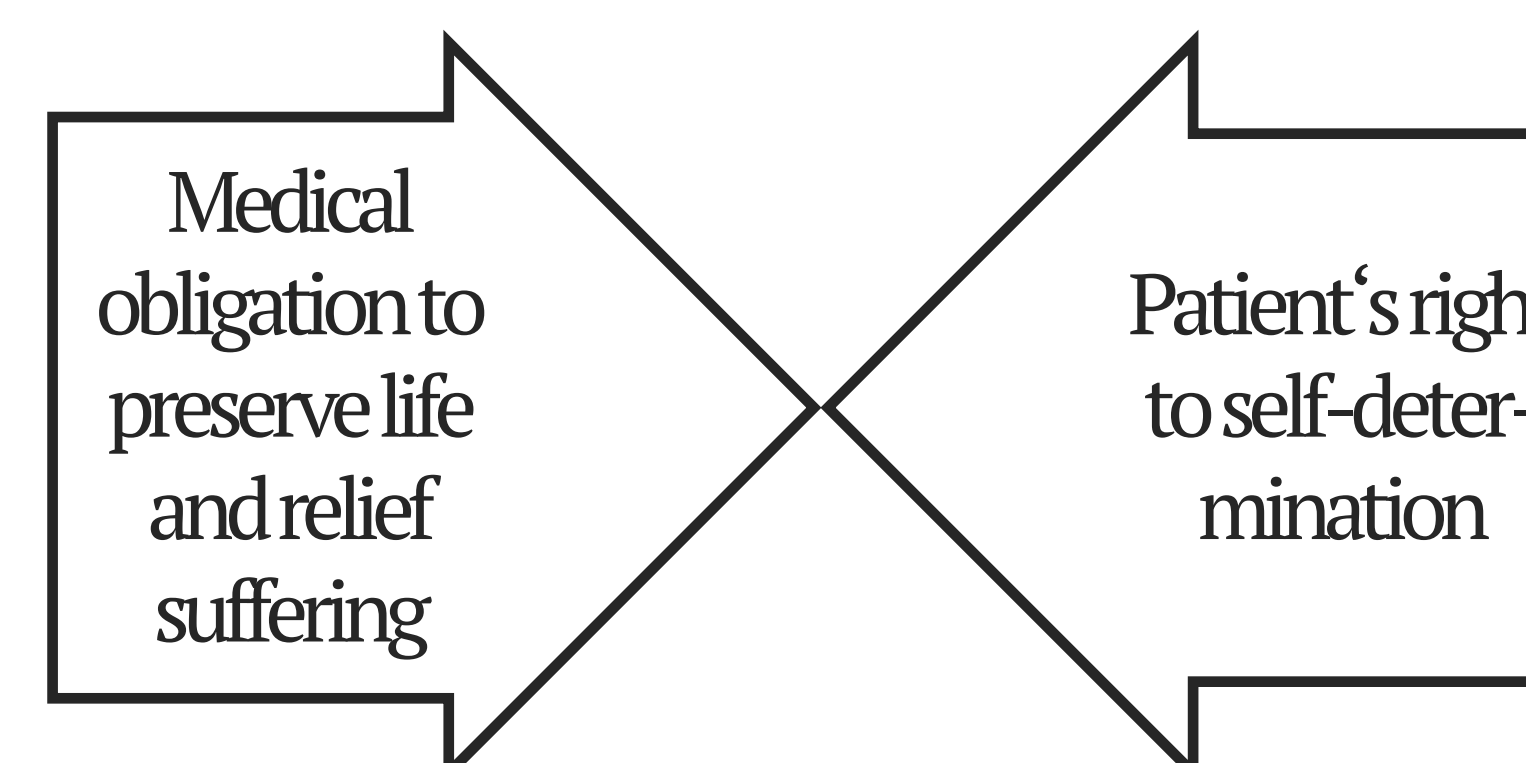
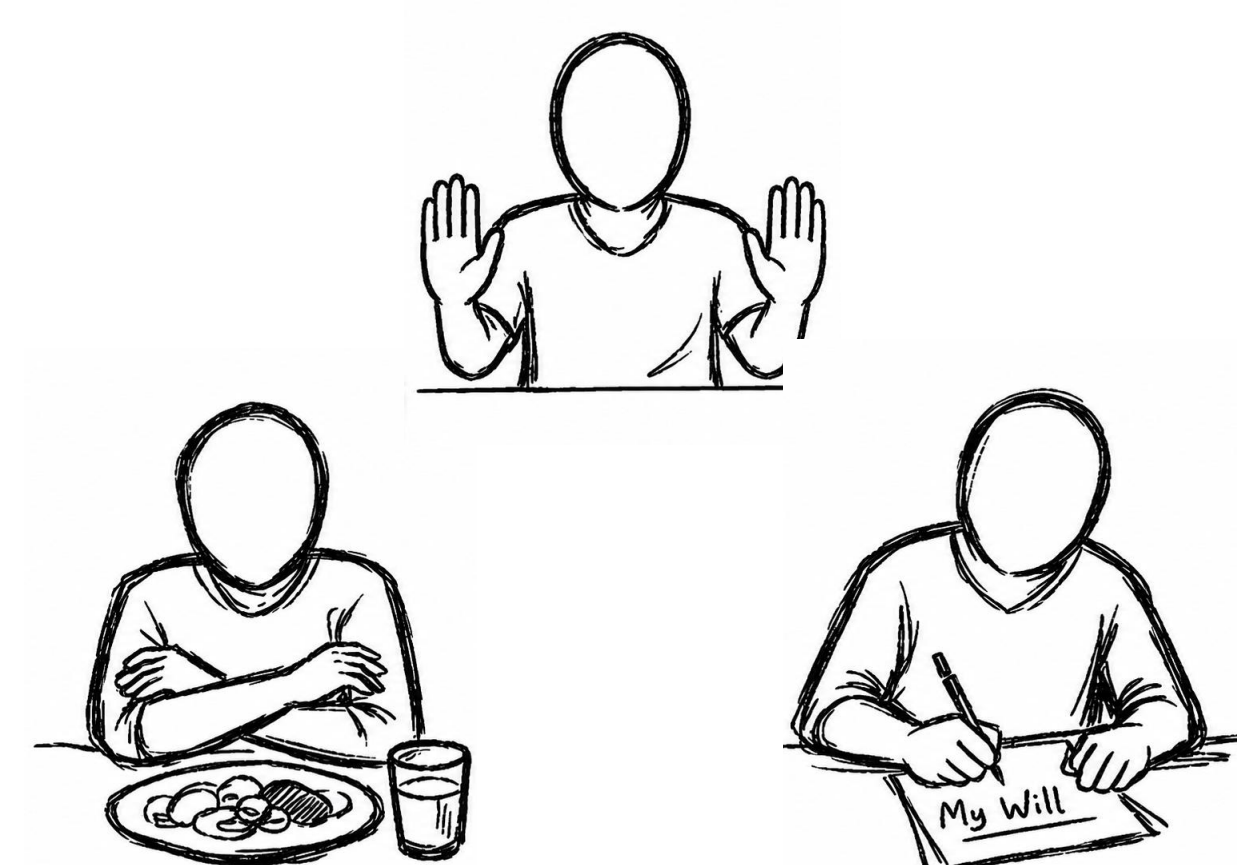
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INTRODUCTION

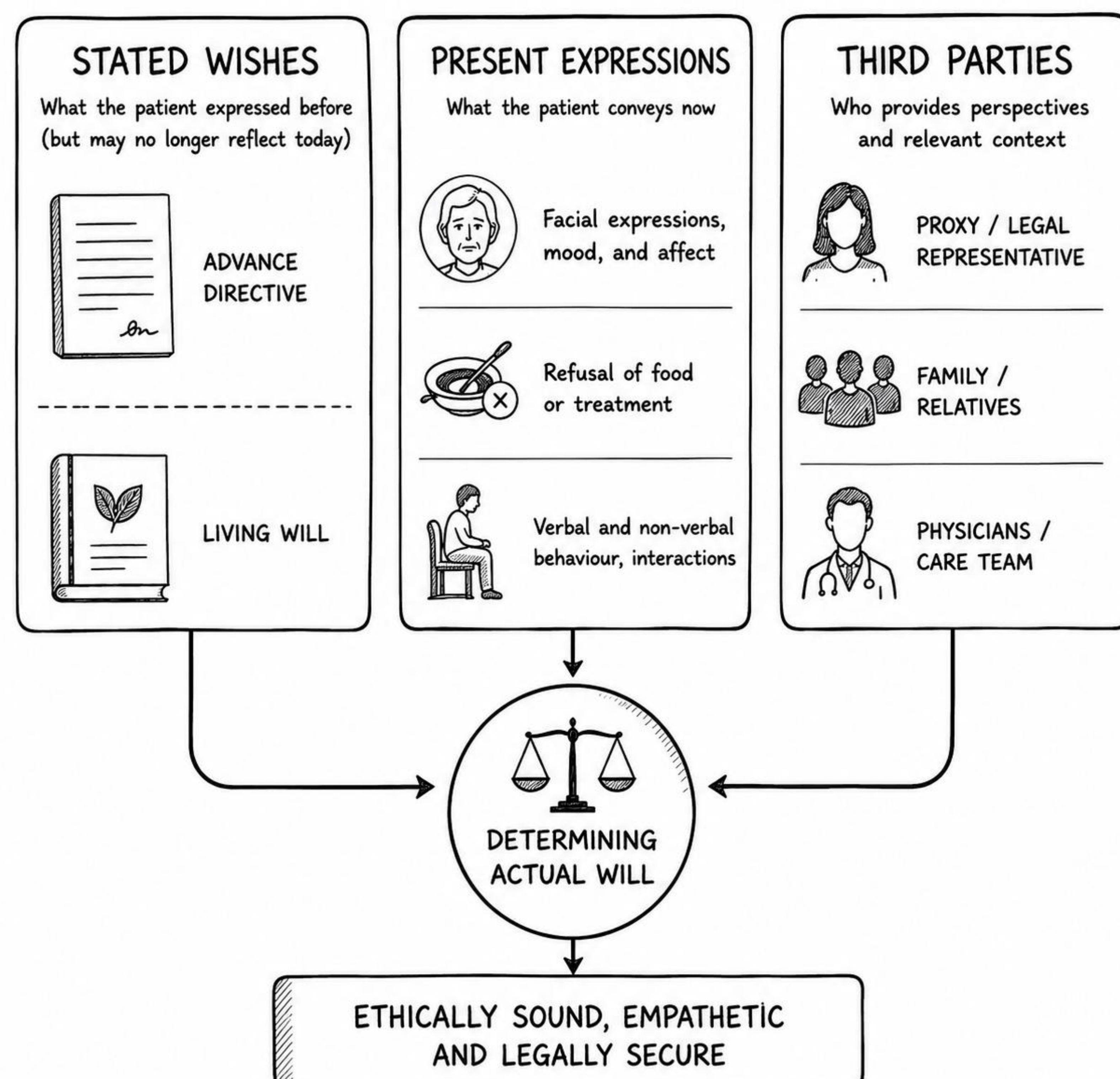
- ? What happens when someone with advanced disease may not want to live anymore?
- ? How can the will to live be determined?
- ? How to decide?



METHODS

- 🔍 Analysis and comparison of different European and US American law

RESULTS



- Determining a patient's (natural) will can be extremely difficult. Forms of expression can be diverse and ambiguous.
- Living wills or advance directives are often drafted many years before the relevant treatment situation and may no longer reflect the patient's current will.
- Powers of attorney may lead to conflicts, especially when third parties disagree on patient's "best interest".

CONCLUSION

Take present expressions seriously alongside previously stated wishes.

Avoid both automatic life preservation & premature assumptions about a wish to die.

Identifying the patient's actual will through multiple complementary sources.

How can legal frameworks be improved to better reflect this?