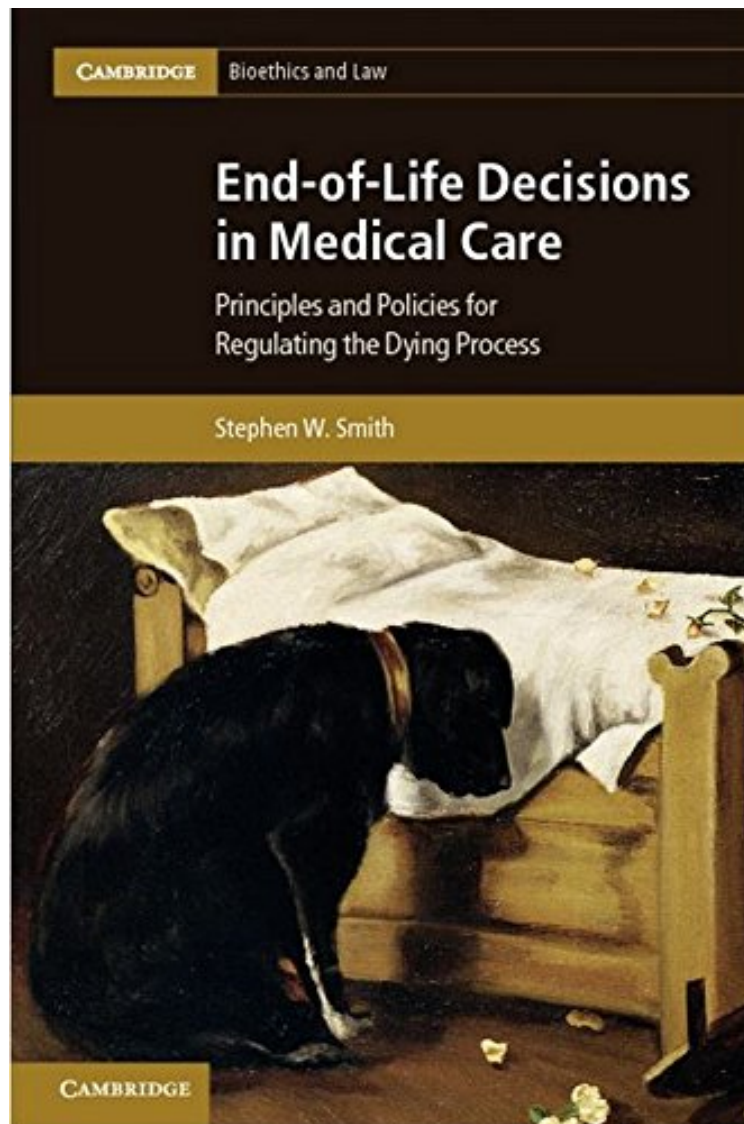


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End-of-Life Decisions in Medical Care: Principles and Policies for Regulating the Dying Process (Cambridge Bioethics and Law)

Stephen W. Smith

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(Cambridge Bioethics and Law):

Those involved in end-of-life decision making must take into account both legal and ethical issues. This book starts with a critical reflection of ethical principles including ideas such as moral status, the value of life, acts and omissions, harm, autonomy, dignity and paternalism. It then explores the practical difficulties of regulating end-of-life decisions, focusing on patients, healthcare professionals, the wider community and issues surrounding 'slippery slope' arguments. By evaluating the available empirical evidence, the author identifies preferred ways to regulate decisions and minimise abuses at the end of life, and outlines an ethical theory which can provide practical guidance for those engaged in end-of-life decisions.

About the Author Stephen W. Smith is a lecturer in law at Birmingham Law School, where he teaches bioethics, criminal law and medicine and jurisprudence.