



Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.

An Advance Directive for a Natural End of Life

~ Jim Cole, General Counsel

No one should feel abandoned or be pressured to die before natural death comes. Recently we have seen assisted suicide laws being adopted by more states after a 20-year hiatus. Health care facilities increasingly act as if treating people is “futile” if treatment will not cure them. Some public officials speak as if it costs too darned much to keep people alive who are going to die in the near future anyway.

The most common reasons for the growth of assisted suicide and euthanasia are actually reflections of loneliness and a lack of meaning in life, not declining health or suffering per se. Fr. Tad Pacholczyk of the National Catholic Bioethics Center has written,

[E]uthanasia and assisted suicide are little more than ways of short-circuiting our human interrelatedness and interconnectedness, . . . To end our lives well, on the other hand, is to be open to receiving loving assistance from others, and to accept the measure of suffering that may come our way, thereby humanizing, rather than demonizing, the frailties of sickness and aging. By reaching out to one another at the end of life . . . we elevate this important journey that each of us must make, with death coming in God’s providential time as a completion of His work in us.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, “Euthanasia--Broken Memories, Broken Bonds,” Making Sense of Bioethics, The National Catholic Bioethics Center (November, 2009), https://www.ncbcenter.org/files/3914/6984/9809/MSOB053_Euthanasia_-_Broken_Memories_Broken_Bonds.pdf.

Some of us want to protect our last days from the increasingly hostile attitudes of certain health care providers and government officials. In Missouri, such protection may be found in a durable power of attorney that contains advance directives on treatment at the end of life.

Missouri Right to Life is now offering a form for a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care for Missourians to consider. (It may not achieve its intended effect in other states with different laws.) Rather than using broad, somewhat misleading checklists, as many forms offered on the Internet do, the MRL form allows you to instruct your Health Care Agent in the pro-life principles that you want him or her to use when the time comes.

Please feel free to download the new form from MRL’s web site (www.missourilife.org) and to study either the full article on advance directives found there or the short outline of the principles of MRL’s form, “Advance Directives for a Natural End to Life: a Summary.”

Elected Officials Work for the Most Vulnerable Missourians...The Unborn

You can encourage them to stay strong at Pro-Life Action Day on Tuesday, March 13

~ Susan Klein

In 2017 we saw the power of a strong pro-life legislature and a new pro-life governor. Gov. Eric Greitens’ leadership led our pro-life super-majorities in the House and the Senate to pass the strongest pro-life legislation in Missouri.

With the signature of the Governor, the language of SB 5 is protecting Missouri women and unborn babies from the deceptions of the abortion industry.



The pro-life crowd fills the Capitol Rotunda at last year’s noon rally at Pro-Life Action Day.

But our job is not done. While abortion numbers are the lowest they have been since the deceptive *Roe v Wade* decision, the latest Missouri abortion numbers show 7,254 abortions. That’s 7,254 little voices that will never be heard.

You have the opportunity at “Show Me Life” Pro-Life Action Day to encourage our state officials to enact more pro-life legislation in 2018 to protect these little unborn girls and boys. Pro-Life voters don’t look for super-majorities to quit after a great victory, we are energized to save all these babies.

Come to Pro-Life Action Day on Tuesday, March 13. Thank our Governor and our legislators for SB 5, and let them know we are looking for additional life-saving pro-life legislation in 2018.

Those little voices are counting on all of us!



Doctors are euthanizing patients and harvesting their organs

In my first anti-euthanasia column, published in Newsweek in 1993, I warned that eventually medicalized killing/suicide would be conjoined with organ harvesting “as a plum to society.”

“Slippery slope argument!” my detractors yelled at me. “Alarmist!” It will never happen!” You get the drift.

Of course, it did happen. In Belgium doctors kill disabled and mentally ill people. Once dead, with consent, their bodies are harvested. Ditto the Netherlands.

Then, some of the same detractors who called me alarmist, changed their tune to applaud the conjoining, because you know, CHOICE! After all, they want to die, so why not let society receive the plum?

When Canada’s Supreme Court imposed a nation-wide euthanasia right on the country and most Canadians enthusiastically swallowed that hemlock policy, I warned that our northern neighbors would soon join the crowd.

I thought it would require an explicit law. It didn’t, and it is not only happening, but the medical establishment is working to make it more common. From the CBC story:

The medical system is working through logistical issues and ethical concerns that don’t come up for non-MAID [“medical assistance in dying,” Canada’s euphemism for lethal injection euthanasia] donors.

For one thing, the dying process becomes more medicalized. Patients need to undergo sometimes uncomfortable and inconvenient medical tests to see if their tissues and organs are viable for transplant.

If someone is getting medical assistance in dying and wants to donate their organs, they have to be in a transplant-capable hospital, close to an operating room.

‘We’re trying to reduce the impact

of organ donation on the last few hours of their life. We want it to be a time they enjoy with their friends and family and leaves everyone with lasting memories, not of a hospital,’ says Dr. Adrian Robertson, medical director of Transplant Manitoba’s Gift of Life program. (Lyzaville Sale/CBC)...

Most patients would prefer to die at home,” Robertson says. “So this is an extra burden to the patient. That’s explained to them, and in some ways signifies their interest in donation that they’re willing to forgo that part of the beauty of medical assistance in dying and take on this extra burden of donation.”

Part of the burden could be refraining from alcohol and recreational drugs, which would be part of the assessment and consent process.

This is awful. These people should be given suicide prevention services. At the very least, nothing should be done that would encourage the decision to be killed.

Instead, conjoining organ donation with being killed sends the insidious and subversive message that the deaths of these patients have greater value than their lives.

It will get even worse when Canada explicitly joins Netherlands/Belgium to allow psychiatric patients to be killed by their doctors. Yes, yes, I know: “Alarmist! Slippery Slope arguer! It will never happen!”

Then, when it all comes to pass: “That’s GOOD, because, you know, CHOICE!”

National Review/Wesley Smith 1/5/18

Four abortion businesses close

Great news from 40 Days for Life -- four more abortion facilities have shut down following 40 Days for Life campaigns!

One is the notorious Planned Parenthood facility in Bettendorf, Iowa – one of a number of Iowa locations that have shut down as the abortion giant’s footprint in the state keeps getting smaller and smaller!

In all, nine peaceful 40 Days for Life prayer vigils were held outside that center.

Also closing its doors was the Marie Stopes facility in Belfast, Northern Ireland. There had been four 40 Days for Life vigils at this site ... along with countless hours of additional prayer organized by the Precious Life group for Marie Stopes’ scandalous business to cease.

In addition, we’ve just been made

aware of other closures in North Carolina and Alaska.

This means that since 40 Days for Life began in 2007, there have been 94 abortion businesses that have shut their doors forever following campaigns outside their doors!

And in just over a month, the next 40 Days for Life campaign starts running from February 14 to March 25.

So get ready for the new campaign! Find the location nearest you and sign up now to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

40DaysforLife.com 1/11/18

Actors Nick Loeb and Jon Voight making new Roe v. Wade movie

Two Hollywood actors are coming together with pro-life leaders to produce a film detailing the true story behind Roe v. Wade.

Academy Award-winning actor Jon Voight and actor/producer Nick Loeb are involved in the making of “Roe v. Wade: The Movie,” along with Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and others.

“This is the untold story of how [abortion activists] lied and manipulated Jane Roe, the media, and the courts into the decision to allow abortion in 1973,” Loeb told LifeNews.

The film will follow key advocates in the abortion fight in the 1970s, including former abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson and Betty Friedan on the pro-abortion side and Dr. Mildred Jefferson, the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School, on the pro-life side.

“Bernard and Betty, along with the team at Planned Parenthood, search the country to find a pregnant girl they can use to sue the government for her right to have an abortion,” according to a description on the film website.

The film will examine the lies and manipulative tactics of abortion activists, people like McCorvey and Nathanson who later had a change of heart, and dedicated pro-life advocates like Jefferson who fought valiantly to defend the right to life for babies in the womb.

“This big screen movie is the real untold story of how mountains of lies led to an injustice that has deprived millions of people of human dignity and human rights,” King said in a promotional video for the film.

LifeNews.com 1/10/18

You're the best -- a thank you is in order! So Thank You!

From the Vice-President ~

A challenge, grandparents!

In January 2016 I executed the first installment of a multi-year New Year's Resolution to eventually take each of my grandchildren to Washington D.C. to participate in the March for Life.

I cleared it with his parents before speaking to Noah, my oldest grandchild. When I did, he was agreeable to my proposal. My daughter warned me he's not very talkative with the adults in his life having just hit the teen-age years, so don't expect much interaction with him during the trip. He lived up to that expectation!

We listened to Vice President Pence's speech at the rally site. I noticed my grandson paying particular attention when Pence mentioned that 90% of Down Syndrome babies were aborted and when the Vice President talked about adoption as the loving option. Noah was adopted from China at 8 months of age, and he has a cousin who has Down Syndrome.

It was some time later during a visit to my daughter's house that I learned from his parents that my grandson had told them that before he participated in the March for Life, he considered himself pro-choice, but after he had decided that he was pro-life. I had no clue about that at all, so I considered my efforts well rewarded!

Fast forward to early December. We traveled 2 ½ hours to attend Noah's Christmas concert. Beforehand, at his mother's prompting during dinner, this grandson shared that he had an assignment in language arts class to do a debate-type presentation on the broad topic of how to achieve equality for all. The topic he chose was to outlaw abortion and wanted me to help answer some hard issues, like rape and incest. I asked the obvious question: "When are you supposed to have this presentation ready to give?" "On Tuesday," he answered.

Boy, did I ever feel overwhelmed!

I had to make Christmas happen at our house and I had just come home with a lot of homework to do! But I knew this had to move to the top of my to-do list. Fortunately, I stumbled onto a set of five good YouTube videos by Olivia Gans on how to answer the pro-abortion arguments, and I was able to send him the links.

I asked him at our family New Year's gathering how it went. He said both he and his debate partner had made really good points, but in his opinion neither of them had 'won' the debate. Then he said, "The girl said that it doesn't matter if you're a boy or a girl, if you have never ever been pregnant, then you shouldn't have a say/opinion on the matter of abortion. That was hard to answer/argue against."

My points in sharing this snapshot of my life are these: 1) we have to begin teaching the values at home within our families, 2) prioritize this necessary and important work over other activities when needed, 3) keep trying -- you never know when the seeds you plant will bear fruit, 4) our young men should not be neglected -- we need to help them understand their role in the whole abortion question.

Grandparents, I challenge you to get your grandchildren to the March for Life next year!



Therese Sander

For Life,
Therese Sander

What To Do When a Friend Is Considering Abortion

– Susanne Maynes

The last edition of MRL News included “How to Help A Friend Who Wants an Abortion.” This article offers more thoughts on this important topic.

More women and girls consider abortion than we may realize. They are our relatives and friends, our babysitters, teammates, people who work with us or for us, married or unmarried. Even if someone identifies as being pro-life, the shock of an unexpected pregnancy, the devastation of a difficult prenatal diagnosis, shame, pressures, or fears may influence her to consider abortion.

If someone shared with you she was pregnant and hadn’t ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond? The answer can be summed up in an old adage: We have two ears and one mouth, and should use them in that proportion.

Although the first instinct may be to convince her that abortion ends a baby’s life, hearing facts is not the first thing she needs. Research shows that many women in a pregnancy crisis think, “This is the end of my life as I know it.” To face the challenges before her, your friend needs to know you care about her for her own sake and she is not alone.

First listening to your friend will help build trust and facilitate openness. Eventually, when she knows you truly care about her and she trusts you, you can share the truth in love. You can share facts about abortion, her own intrinsic worth, and the practical help and support available so she can choose life for herself and her baby.

A truly loving approach reflects St. Paul’s description of love in his first letter to the Corinthians: “If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. ... Love is patient, love is kind” (1 Cor. 13:1,4).

When a woman is facing a difficult pregnancy, the reaction of the first person she tells tends to set the tone for her decision-making. How do we respond to our friend in a loving way

that is life-affirming for both her and her baby?

Consider the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach™*: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower.

L -- Listen and Learn

First, prioritize listening over speaking. You don’t have to worry about whether you

may say something “wrong,” and you don’t need to have all the answers. Start by listening to her story.

Ask her about her feelings, thoughts, values, beliefs, and wants. Do not interrupt, except to ask her to expound, when appropriate. For example: How did you feel when you first found out? Did you feel abandoned when he said that? What are your feelings now? What did you think about that? What do you think your parents will say or do? What value does that have for you? How does this relate to your religious beliefs? How important is that for you? In your heart of hearts, what do you really want to do?

Ask open-ended questions and statements like, “Tell me more...”

Interpret and confirm what you think you are hearing: “Did I hear you say...”

Pay close attention to her body language. She may show from gestures of discomfort or a lack of eye contact that what she is saying does not actually reflect her innermost feelings, values, or wants.

Listen for clues to her needs so you can later bring up helpful ways to address those needs. Listen for her strengths and resources so you can later reflect them back to her, building up her confidence and courage.

O -- Open Options

When her story is fully shared, it is your turn to provide factual information, always in a loving and caring way. You might share about the reality of abortion and the wounds that typically result. You might share experiences about having a baby, adoption, marriage, and how such things might apply in her situation. It’s most helpful to keep the focus on her.

At the same time, avoid using the framework of adoption versus abortion. Research indicates that a woman with an unexpected, unwanted pregnancy often views all the possible outcomes of her pregnancy negatively: keeping her child, abortion, and adoption (which she tends to see as the worst of three “evils”). Research also “suggests that in pitting adoption against abortion, adoption will be the hands-down loser.”^[1] It’s better to first focus on encouraging her that she can carry this baby to term.

V -- Vision and Value

Awaken a vision in her for a healthier life (a vision she may never have had, or that may have dimmed). Help her value herself differently. She is a special creation, worthy of love. She is made in the image of God; as a woman, her maternity is a gift. Jesus loves her and even died for her.

Encourage her. Help her set and work towards goals that extend beyond her due date to help her see life beyond her pregnancy. Reassure her there is always hope and she is not alone. She can make positive, life-giving choices. She can do it.

E -- Extend and Empower

Provide practical help and support. Her local pregnancy help

(continued next page)



Celebrate a lifetime of giving...

... by giving beyond a lifetime! Invest in your vision – a world in which every human life is protected and respected.

Yours is a Legacy of Life and Love

A planned gift to Missouri Right to Life through your will, trust, or an annuity is a gift that lives on – and saves lives.

For information or to request a confidential consultation, contact:



“One life, a little gleam between two eternities.”

– Thomas Carlyle

center^[2] can offer consultation, lists of community resources, and ultrasound services. Consider keeping such lists of resources in your car, purse, or wallet. Help her plan next steps. What would help her? A call from you? How can you contact her?

Pray with her and for her and her baby. The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is a way to bring Christ's love at a crucial life-saving and life-defining moment. We are created to walk with and support one another; we don't need to fear reaching out in love. Help your friend experience the strength of God's message that resounds throughout time: "Do not fear: I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10).

[1] Swope, Paul F., "Abortion: A Failure to Communicate," First Things, April 1998. <https://www.firstthings.com/article/1998/04/004-abortion-a-failure-to-communicate>.

[2] Heartbeat International provides a directory of pregnancy services, which is accessible at www.heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory or at <https://optionline.org/>. *The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is trademarked by Heartbeat International, Inc. and may not be adapted or modified. The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is used in "What to Do When a Friend Is Considering Abortion" with permission from Heartbeat International, Inc.

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Ali Mefford Saves Babies!

~ Sarah Mefford

One October morning in 2016, 11-year-old Alicia told her mother, "I want to stop abortion and save babies from being aborted." Her mother, thinking about the size and magnitude of ending abortion and saving unborn babies' lives as being something not yet attainable by one person, reluctantly agreed and asked her, "What's your plan, Ali?" Ali and her friend talked Sarah, Ali's mom, into taking them to the local Dollar Tree store.

Using only \$19 or \$20, the only money Ali had plus maybe a little help from her mom, Ali and her friend set out on a journey to create themed baskets to be raffled off and all the proceeds going to "the person that could end abortions." At this point in Ali's life, she believed one person could be given the right amount of money and that would end the killing. So after some prayerful, honest conversations and some sad realization of innocence lost, Ali picked the anti-abortion groups that would be beneficiaries of her kind heart.

Ali and her friend came home from the Dollar Tree and set to work creating a house cleaning package and a baker's delight package. Local business owners and friends of the family, Papa Rock BBQ, believed in Ali's idea and project so much that they gave gift certificates for their catering services, as well as a huge BBQ basket for Ali to raffle off. Cece Flood, co-owner of Papa Rock BBQ, told Sarah after seeing Ali's homemade video on her Facebook page, "We are pro-life and we want to support Ali in her goal!"

After the videos posted to Sarah's Facebook page, the comments, support, and donations started pouring in. Not only did members of Ali's church, St. Pius X, support her, but the whole community and numerous other churches supported Ali's mission. Friends, family, and strangers gave generously to the cause.

Only a couple of brief private mes-

sages came in asking how an 11-year-old girl can have such a formed opinion of abortion?! Clearly, her parents had brain-washed her into false ideas of abortion? The honest and innocent ideas from an 11-year-old girl were the basis of a great conversion of hearts! Kyley and Sarah Mefford, Ali's parents, have supported the pro-life movement and set the example of faith for their three daughters to know that abortion is clearly the murder of an innocent life and also to know the damage and impact abortion has on the mother, father, and even extended family members.

These private messages created a sore spot for Sarah. So she began to reach out to everyone she could asking for prayers over Ali, her project and ideas, and for a change of hearts and minds of those that question abortion. God was using Ali to remind her mom how important our voices are for the innocent -- the small voice and idea of a child to stand up and stand out and demand better from others!

After several weeks of mailed donations, hand delivered donations, and picked-up donations, and many prayers, Ali ended up with \$500 in proceeds!

Then began her choosing of who best to receive the money. After careful consideration, she chose to give the money to Birthright of Moberly to continue their important work of reaching out to those that had given life and were in need of support. Ali then chose her local Right to Life group as the recipient of the other half of the proceeds. A full year later, and another year older, Ali has continued to reach out to many others by volunteering at the local Christos Center (food pantry) as well as Birthright of Moberly.

To be mindful of all the things Ali actually did and the hearts and minds she touched through her simple, heartfelt ideas shows us that no matter our age, our size, shape, or color, we each are important in the eyes of our Creator.

Life does matter and our choices do make a difference!



In her quest to "stop abortion and save babies from being aborted," Ali makes a donation to Therese Sanders for the work of Missouri Right to Life.



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Pro-Life Across Missouri

save the date

- February 14 - March 25** 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign in Columbia, St. Louis, and Kansas City.
- Tues., March 13** “Show Me Life” Pro-Life Action Day State Capitol, Jefferson City. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. (See back cover for more information.)
- Sunday, May 13** MRL Western Region Mother’s Day **Carnation Sale** to present to the ladies in your churches to honor mothers and daughters. For info, call the WR office, 816.353.4113, or online www.mrlwesternregion.org/carnation-sale.html.
- Friday, May 18** MRL Western Region **Annual Golf Tournament**, Eagles’ Landing Golf Course, Belton. Registration info online www.mrlwesternregion.org/golf-tournament.html.
- Thurs.-Sat. June 28-30** **National Right to Life Convention**, Overland Park KS -- just next door! Info at <http://nrlconvention.com/>
- Sunday, December 2** **Missouri Right to Life Gala Dinner for Life**, Frontenac Hilton, St Louis, 5:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now for this upcoming event! Stay tuned for more information on keynote speaker and special guests!



Eastern Region-MRL folks gather for their annual “old-timers” Christmas luncheon. Now that doesn’t mean they’re old -- just that they’ve been on this pro-life mission for a long, long time!



Missouri Right to Life Political Action Committee

Special Election February 6, 2018

Special elections have been called for four Missouri legislative districts.

Missouri Right to Life Political Action Committee endorsements in these races:

House District 39 (Chariton and Carroll counties and the majority of Ray county)

Peggy McGaugh (R)

House District 97 (Jefferson and a small portion of southwest St. Louis county)

David C. Linton (R)

House District 129 (Dallas county, portion of Laclede county)

Jeff Knight (R)

House District 144 (all of Iron county, portions of Washington, Reynolds, Wayne counties)

Chris Dinkins (R)

Paid for by Missouri Right to Life State PAC, Patricia Skain Treasurer. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.



Memorials & Honorariums

In memory or in honor of a loved one or a friend, these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.

In honor of ~

Patty Skain

Grace Padberg

In memory of ~

Alfred Brocaille

Mary Therese Ismert

Barb Rogers

Given by ~

Paul & Betty Allen

Walter & Mary Gerau

Given by ~

Bernard & Barbara Greenwell

Greater Kansas City
Community Foundation

Rich & Joanie Todd
& Family

Missouri Right to Life thanks those who honor their deceased loved ones or who celebrate an important event by making a gift to MRL.

MRL Youth Video Contest

Missouri Right to Life announces a new Youth Video Contest for promoting the pro-life cause.

Students are invited to create a video in the length of 30 seconds minimum to a maximum of three minutes. The purpose of this project is to increase youth and family awareness, involvement, and knowledge of the pro-life issue.

Within the pro-life movement, there are many different topics on which to focus. Examples would be abortion in general, sex-selection abortions, abortion methods, abortions on viable unborn babies, euthanasia, “Do Not Resuscitate” orders, removing food and water from vulnerable patients, Simon’s law, new-born drop off program, somatic cell nuclear transfer and human cloning, informed consent, pain capable unborn child protection, fathers of aborted children, sidewalk counseling, sale of aborted baby body parts from abortions, abortion clinic inspections, pregnancy resource centers and so on.



There are three levels of participation based on age grouping, with merchandise prizes for each level as follows:

- Level 1—Junior High (7th and 8th grade) Cash value of merchandise prizes will be approximately \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place.
- Level 2—Senior High (9th through 12th grade) Cash value of merchandise prizes will be approximately \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place, and \$100 for third place.
- Level 3—College Students. Cash value of merchandise prizes will be approximately \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place, and \$100 for third place.

This is a statewide contest, and the deadline for submissions is April 15th. Completed entries can be uploaded on Youtube.com or Vimeo.com, and contestants will need to supply the link and, in the case of Vimeo, also the password if they have it password protected. The links and passwords should be sent to Patty Skain at the Missouri Right to Life state office at patty.s@missourilife.org.

A state panel of judges will determine the winners, and their names will be posted on Missouri Right to Life’s Facebook page. Those who choose to do so may move on to the National Right to Life Video Contest.

Any questions should be directed to Patty Skain, 573.635.5110, or emailed to patty.s@missourilife.org.



Sedalia Chapter-MRL’s float in the 2017 Sedalia Christmas Parade.



Susan Klein, MRL’s Executive Director/Legislative Liaison, attends the December visit by President Trump to St. Charles.

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**Missouri Right to Life
“Show Me Life” Pro-Life Action Day**

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

(registration begins at 10:00 a.m.)

Missouri State Capitol ~ 1st Floor Rotunda



**“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”**

Dr. Seuss The Lorax

*Plan to be at Pro-Life Action Day to encourage your legislators to pass
pro-life legislation, then join the noon rally for inspiration and information
for the best pro-life action! And remember, **wear red for LIFE!***

**Noon Rally
Featured Speaker**



Carol Tobias

President
National Right to Life

Carol says, “An unborn child is counting on you!” At the noon rally, she will help us know how we can best be present for these little ones and their moms.