

California's End of Life Options Act – A Primer for Psychologists

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2017
Time: 6pm - 6:35 Social hour, 6:45 - 8:45 Presentation/Dinner
Presenter: Rhoda Olkin, Ph.D.
Location: Lafayette Park Hotel
Cost: \$65
CEU: 2

Registration: <https://www.123signup.com/calendar?Org=cocopsych>

ABSTRACT: In June, 2016, California joined four other states (and Canada) in legalizing assistance in ending one's life when living with a disease that is projected to be terminal within six months. Several facets of the law may involve psychologists, and as such psychologists need to be informed about the details and requirements of the law. Issues in which psychologists may be involved include assessment of informed consent; capacity; mental status, especially with regard to depression; and voluntariness. Considerations that are not outlined in the law but which affect those who might opt for assisted suicide are financial pressures, adequate pain management, the rights of any remaining minor children, and the family's religious and moral concerns.

This two-hour presentation will focus first on the requirements in the law. Then several possible end-of-life vignettes will be outlined and discussed as they relate to psychologists. Ethical concerns will be presented in the vignettes, demonstrating the types of decisions that psychologists could be asked to facilitate with their clients. Possible unanticipated discriminatory outcomes of the law are considered.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Name three based requirements of the End of Life Options Act.
2. State two potential dilemmas for psychologists when conducting therapy with clients who may wish to utilize the law.
3. Apply learning from the workshop to a case vignette.

BIO: Rhoda Olkin, Ph.D., is a Distinguished Professor at CSPP-SF, and the author of two books on disability: *What Psychotherapists Should Know About Disability* and *Disability-Affirmative Therapy* (forthcoming April 28, 2017). She has written and talked about end of life, physician assisted death, and quality of life regarding people with disabilities, including two radio interviews in Oregon and Canada. She has a private practice in Walnut Creek.

DINNER MENU:

Salad: Little gem wedge, Ver jus vinaigrette, pickled onions, ciabatta

Entrée:

Seared chicken breast, grilled spring onion, farro risotto, natural jus

Vegetarian Option:

Grilled tofu, grilled spring onion, farro risotto, smoked tomato jus

Dessert: Black forest cake