

Personal Update.  
 Family and Life,  
 February 2016

## Patient Dies Before Hospital Can Kill Him

Mr Chris Dunn, 46, a former sheriff's deputy, died in hospital in Houston, Texas, on December 23. That he was able to die of natural causes, however, was due only to the concern and the efforts of members of his family and of pro-life and anti-euthanasia activists in Texas and from around the USA.

Mr Dunn became seriously ill last October from an unknown cause, possibly pancreatic cancer—he had a mass on his pancreas, but its nature was never determined. He was placed on a ventilator in a small hospital and later was transferred to Houston Methodist Hospital. Unfortunately for him and for all vulnerable patients in the Lone Star State since 1999, a state law, the *Texas Advanced Directives Act* (TADA), allows hospitals and doctors to ignore the express wishes of patients and their families, and to disregard patients' medical directives and the persons who have medical power of attorney for them, in order to kill the patients upon 10 days' notice by stopping their food and water and their medical care.

This unbelievably anti-life law gives hospitals and doctors complete immunity from all civil, administrative and criminal prosecution and liability when they take the lives of patients, even if they are conscious and communicating and even if their medical treatment is benefiting them. Mr Dunn was both conscious and communicating.

Houston Methodist Hospital served Evelyn Kelly, Mr Dunn's mother with medical power of attorney, with a notice of intent to kill him, even though he was not "terminal" and they had not diagnosed his illness. She contacted Texas Right to Life, which defends threatened patients such as her son. A social media campaign was begun in order to defend Mr Dunn, and a video of him indisputably showed him to be alert and responding to a visitor's questions. In the video, when asked if he wanted to live, Mr Dunn, who could not speak because of his ventilator, raised his hands and folded them in prayer.

The hospital was so determined to take Mr Dunn's life that when his mother took steps to save him from them, it tried to remove her legal guardianship.

Two days before Christmas, Mr Dunn left this world. May he rest in peace. Pro-lifers recall the adage, "Man proposes, God disposes".