

Addressing End of Life Issues
A Panel Forum Sponsored by
The Current Issues Club of Sun City
Friday, February 20, 2015
10:00 am
Georgetown/Florence Rooms in the
Cowan Creek Amenity Center

Despite tremendous advances in modern medicine, one aspect of human existence remains constant- life inevitably leads to death. Whether it is a sudden death, or from a terminal illness, or simply from reaching the limits of a natural life span, at some point we will all face the end of life. Invariably, addressing death in our culture today encompasses a whole range of medical, legal, relational, spiritual, financial, and ethical issues. While we may choose to ignore or avoid end of life issues, eventually we or our loved ones will be asked to make decisions regarding our demise and will have to address a host of issues that accompany one's death. Some of these issues involve medical decisions- pursuing, withholding or ending treatments when life expectancy is limited, providing information to patients and honoring patient rights, offering palliative care, removing life support systems, etc. Legal issues also must be addressed – disposal of the body, probating estates, preparing legal documents, caring for dependents, settling financial obligations, etc. Spiritual and relational issues also arise when someone dies- care for the grieving family, honoring the life of the deceased, managing conflicts over inheritance, planning funeral services, etc. In recent years some terminally ill, severely debilitated, and aging patients have also wanted the freedom to end their life before a natural death occurs. So, new debates about the ethics of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia have captured public attention.

This End of Life Forum will seek to address many of these difficult issues in hopes of helping us all to better prepare for the time when death will knock on our door. A panel of two physicians who care for terminally ill patients and an attorney specializing in estate planning will make presentations on some of the most important medical and legal issues that should be discussed and addressed before a crisis arises. Dr. Michael J. Moffitt, Hospice Medical Director at Scott & White Healthcare, Dr. Asif Syed, Hospitalist with Georgetown St. David's Hospital, and Mr. Brad Weiwel, Attorney at Law, will offer their perspectives on medical and legal decisions and issues that end of life often brings. After the presentations, a time for Questions and Answers will follow. Since our meeting space will be limited and the Current Issues Club is inviting the entire Sun City community to attend this forum we recommend attendees arrive early to get a seat.