

Rights of Suicidal Individuals

- Suicidal individuals have the right to have their cry for help or expression of intent taken very seriously by those to whom they have communicated.
- Suicidal individuals have the right to have their suicidal risk viewed as their most serious problem. There is no problem more serious.
- Suicidal individuals have the right to be seen as wanting to be helped. They want their pain to end. Most do not want to die. They need to have ambivalent feelings heard.
- Suicidal individuals have the right to have their condition brought to the attention of someone in their life who cares for them.
- Suicidal individuals have the right to know that they may be experiencing a chemical deficiency in their bodies brought on by stress and/or depression.
- Suicidal individuals have the right to know that medications are available, which present viable means for stabilizing their situation.
- Suicidal individuals have the right to acknowledgement of their pain. It is intense and acute. At times, this is poorly assessed and under-treated.
- Suicidal individuals have the right to assertive intervention by those responsible for their care when they are manifesting critical symptoms and are high risk.

Note:

Suicide comes from two Latin roots, “sui” (of oneself), and “cidium” (a killing or slaying). This gives us the definition of suicide as the “deliberate or intentional killing of oneself.” The word suicide is inadequate. It omits the role of pain, and pain is what suicide is all about.

Phenacite: “Pena” is from the Latin “plena” (punishment or torment), the root of the word “pain.” “Cade is from “ceder” (to strike down). Phenacite is “killing of pain.” It incorporates the reason wanting to terminate one’s pain. It eliminates the notion that “wanting to die” has anything to do with killing oneself. Phenacite is not a kind of suicide. It is what causes the deaths recorded as suicides. Let us be sensitive to the pain of others.