My name is Kate Wolfe, I was the daughter of Dixie Wolfe who died on August 5th, 2013 at 5:55am as a result of natural causes and supported by palliative sedation.

I was my mom’s primary caregiver and eldest daughter during her journey first with Myelodysplastic syndrome as of 2009 (which was a horrific clotting disorder) but then quickly changed into that dreaded c word, cancer.

This one in the form of Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML), would unbeknownst to me be my mom’s death sentence after 3 more years of medical bills, juggling of volunteers to care for her, and a rapid decline in my moms ability to do the job(s) she loved (as an NICU dietician) and later a walker of dogs.

On August 4th 2013 my mom’s medical team took the time that was long coming to inform my mom there was nothing more that could be done to cure her cancer. She expressed a fear of dying with her two daughters looking on, she feared bleeding out (from her lack of functioning blood cells) as well as fear of being oxygen hungry in front of the two of us as her body would rapidly decline.

Her medical team heard her concerns and brought them before the board of ethics who granted her the ability to participate in palliative sedation, my mom said a final goodbye to those closest to her. She was then sedated by her hospice nurse and my mother died encircled by her two daughters (my sister and I) along with our aunt (my mom’s sister).

No everyone can receive this literal dying wish, to die without fear of your medical symptoms especially in a state that does not authorize the use of death either dignity, also known as Medical Aid in Dying. I implore you to consider my family’s story and experience and think then of your own and how you would like them to experience peace at the end of their lives.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kate Wolfe

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