Suicide Ride

Self-deliverance denied

November 1, 1997

Florida’s Supreme Court ruled against PWA Charles Hall in his fight for the right to a legal, lethal prescription to end his life. The July 5-1 decision echoed the U.S. Supreme Court’s June ruling that nixed any constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide, tossing the hot-potato issue back into the hands of each state. With its potential for abuse, so-called self-deliverance has a special edge in the Sunshine State-home to the nation’s highest proportion of folks over 80-but Hall’s legal strategy focused on an individual’s right to medical assistance. Long in internse AIDS-related pain, Hall, 35, is the last survivor of three plaintiffs who sued the state for the freedom to control their own death.

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