

**DON'T LET THE MEDICAL SYSTEM DECIDE HOW  
YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES WILL DIE**

## LAST RIGHTS

### Rescuing the End of Life from the Medical System

St. Martin's Press \* Hardcover \* ON-SALE 11/14/06 \* ISBN: 0-312-34224-1 \* List price: \$25.95

#### Did you know...?

- Half of people who die in hospitals today suffer severe untreated pain.
- Residents were abused in one-third of U.S. nursing homes in 2003.
- Only six U.S. medical schools require students to take a course on care of the dying.
- Health expenses are the nation's leading cause of personal bankruptcy.

These are just a few of the incredible findings award-winning journalist Stephen P. Kiernan reveals in *Last Rights*, an exposé of America's substandard care of people who are dying.

In *Last Rights*, Kiernan tells the stories of people who died after enduring avoidable pain and needless indignities. More importantly, he shares the stories of people whose last days were pain free, as they lived life fully until the last moment. Above all, he shows how patients and families can regain control of the dying process, creating familial intimacy like never before.

Bolstered by both scientific research and intimate portraits of people from all walks of life, *Last Rights* offers a hopeful, profound vision for patients, doctors, and families. It also provides a way to honor people during their greatest vulnerability, a chance for families to reconnect, an opportunity for the medical system to treat patients with ultimate respect, and a time to give comfort and compassion to those we most love.

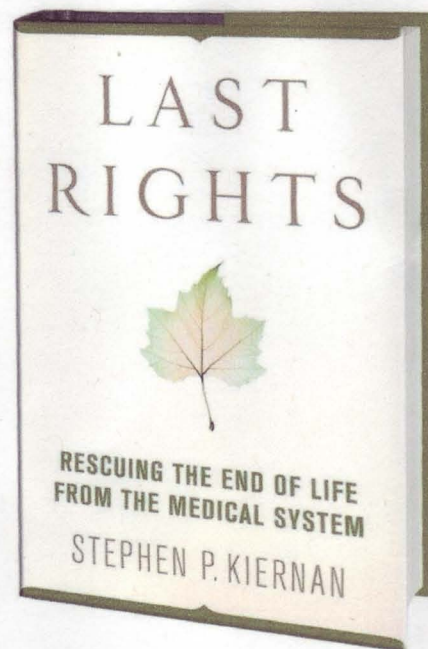


Photo © Karen Pike

**Stephen P. Kiernan** has written for *The Boston Globe* and other publications, and for fourteen years wrote for the *Burlington Free Press* as a columnist, editorial writer, and investigative reporter. He received the George Polk Award for medical reporting, the Joseph Brechner Center's Freedom of Information Award, and has been a two-time finalist for the Gerald Loeb Award for Financial Journalism. Kiernan lives with his two sons in Vermont.