

HARMING ONESELF

Because every person interacts strongly with some other members of her social group(s), nearly every one of her actions, and nearly every instance of neglect of one of her duties, is likely to have some effects, positive or negative, immediate or mediate, upon others. For example, if I fail to ~~take~~ my daily shower, I will stink, and thus inconvenience others; if I do not buckle my seat belt, I may be killed in a car accident, thus inconveniencing all the people who become involved in its aftermath; if I commit suicide, even in a remote place, I inconvenience ^{the police and the courts, as well as} most of the people with whom I had regular deals. In short, harm can be caused not only actively but also passively, i.e. by omission or neglect.

This being so, I have no right to harm myself. (There is only one exception: and protracted suicide to prevent unbearable/pain to self or others.

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