**Chapter Summary**

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Chapter 10: Natural Law Theory

Natural law theory, especially double effect (DDE), continues to play an important role in much applied ethics. Reflecting this, the opening section describes a not uncommon medical situation that DDE can be applied to. It also suggests the appeal of an account like natural law that combines consequentialist and deontological elements. Natural law theory is laid out in §II: given certain natural values, we are morally obligated to promote those values. But conflicts can arise. The principle of forfeiture addresses certain kinds of conflicts and DDE addresses others. The four conditions of DDE are discussed at length in §IV. The most difficult condition to use is the means/end condition. This allows for an act’s good and bad effects to be independent, or for the bad effect to depend on the good; it rules out the good effect depending on the bad. The closing section considers several problems with natural law theory. These include the assumption that natural values ought to be promoted, the inherent vagueness of “natural,” DDE’s occasionally yielding wrong results, and evolutionary theory’s denial that that natural values or ends exist in nature.