Euthanasia in Florida

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Due Date

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**EUTHANASIA**

The term euthanasia is derived from a Greek word “*euthanatos”* which means “easy death”. It refers to painless or merciful killing of a patient suffering from an incurable disease or who is in an irreversible coma (God’s people,2013)

The word “euthanasia” itself comes from the Greek word *‘eu’* (good) and ‘*Thanatos’’* (death), therefore the etymological meaning of this word is “good death” (Rahman et al, 2022). The idea is that instead of condemning someone to a slow, painful, or undignified death, euthanasia allows the patient to experience a relatively “*good death.”* In case of euthanasia, the physician administers a fatal dose of a suitable drug to the patient. For example, in assisted suicide, by contrast, the physician supplies the lethal drug, but the patient administers it. Both forms are covered by the Act, and in both cases, doctors must fulfill the statutory due care criteria.

During the classical times in Greece the word was used to refer to the sympathetic help given to a dying person to experience love and care and not disgrace in their last days. The supporters of euthanasia regard it as an “aid” given to someone who is terminally ill. The word “aid” is used to indicate a positive intention in helping a dying person.

It is important to understand that euthanasia cannot be equated with the current understanding of palliative care. Palliative care is the active relief of suffering in a terminally ill individual through the administration of medicine.

However, some drugs used in palliative care have side effects during therapy and may result in complications, but since this is not the intended result their use is ethically permissible

Euthanasia may be voluntary or involuntary. When euthanasia is practiced against or without the sick person’s consent it is termed as *involuntary euthanasia* (Allen, 2005). Example; if the patient is unconscious and his or her wishes are unknown some ethicists distinguish between “involuntary” (against the patient’s wishes) and “non-voluntary” (without the patients’ consent but the wishes are unknown) forms ,but if it is practiced with the sick person’s knowledge or consent then it is *voluntary euthanasia*(Grover,2021).An example of involuntary euthanasia is where a terminally sick person’s family requests a doctor to turn off life support machines to allow the person to die.

There are two types of euthanasia that is: Direct and Indirect.

***Indirect euthanasia***-this is the application of the medical procedure ,like giving particular drugs or performing specific operations with the intentions of restoring life, saving life or alleviating pain even if it’s likely to speed up patients death.

***Direct euthanasia****-* this is the application or omission of medical procedures which in itself or by intention causes the death of a terminally ill person. Direct euthanasia may be positive or negative.

*Negative euthanasia* occurs when there is a deliberate omission of some lifesaving medical procedures so that death occurs. An example is when blood transfusion is delayed for a terminally ill and seriously anemic person. The act of delaying blood transfusion is deliberate and hastens the death of that person.

*Positive euthanasia* - also called *involuntary euthanasia* is the deliberate application of death causing procedures, E.g. where a drug that would cause the death of a patient is administered e.g. the use of high dosage of morphine in cancer patients.

**Laws Regarding Euthanasia in the State of Florida**

In the meantime, euthanasia is illegal in the state of Florida and it does not have any laws that specifically legalize euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide; in Florida, actively helping someone end their life, even if they are suffering from a terminal illness or unbearable pain, could be considered a criminal act.

Florida has one of the largest elderly populations in the nation, making the issue of euthanasia or ‘mercy killing’ a relevant legal question. Euthanasia is the act of taking someone’s life who no longer wishes to live, typically because they have a terminal illness or other debilitating condition. While euthanasia is physically illegal in all states, some allow for physician-assisted suicide.

Only one state of Oregon currently allows physician-assisted suicide, but many states allow the withdrawal of life-sustaining machines or procedures. In Florida, such laws are not in the book, but a section of the Florida states that the withdrawing of life-prolonging procedures from a patient does not constitute a suicide.

**The basics of Florida Euthanasia-related loss are as follows:** according to (legislative 765.309, 2016)

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| CODE SECTION | 765.309 |
| Euthanasia condoned in statutes? | Nothing construed to condone, authorize, or approve mercy killing or euthanasia, or to permit any affirmative or deliberate act or omission to end life other than to permit the natural process of dying. |
| Effect of withholding life-sustaining procedures. | The withdrawal of life prolongs procedures from a patient in accordance with any provision of this chapter and does not constitute a suicide for any purpose. |

**Personal Thoughts about Euthanasia**

Euthanasia has an effect on the patient, family and friends just to mention a few. The following are my cited arguments for and against euthanasia.

**Arguments for:**

***Dignity in death.***

It’s more compassionate to let a terminally ill person die in dignity than to let the person suffer and yet the condition is incurable. A terminally sick person who has no hope of recovering has a right to choose a dignified death instead of living a degrading life.

***Saves on bankruptcy***

Sometimes the drugs and equipment’s used by terminally ill patients are expensive hence euthanasia removes the financial burden and also the suffering of the person. The argument is that there is no point of keeping alive a person who will definitely die after using all the money on treatment and medicine and leaving the family without a penny to start over.

***It’s morally right.***

It’s morally right to perform an act with the objective of achieving a good result or effect e.g. administering drug to relieve pain, even though there is a probability of the patient dying. As a Christian I will support an act whose good effect override the bad ones.

***Relieves guilt***

The patient might be burdened by guilt of medical finances and emotional torture, which might impact their family and friends. Therefore, the patient may conclude that death might relieve the burden.

***Quality of life***

The human body is too fragile to live in pain for a long time. Only the sick person knows how they feel to suffer physically and emotionally, and how slow death impacts their quality of life. They may feel useless because they are bedridden and unable to partake in societal duties. Hence it’s better to let someone die that to keep them and yet they’re not helping in any manner.

***Witnesses***

Only the individuals who witness the suffering of the patient’s slow death understand what those people are going through, and euthanasia will help ease the pain and should therefore be allowed.

**Arguments against euthanasia.**

***It disrespect’s human life.***

Those who practice euthanasia render life meaningless by distorting sanctity. According to natural law, the life of an individual is sacred and should be respected. Administering involuntary euthanasia, such as withholding a life-supporting machine or injecting lethal drugs, undermines societal beliefs regarding the sanctity of life.

***It’s against the doctor’s law.***

Doctors and nurse who administer euthanasia cannot be trusted by patients to provide healing. Medical practitioners should work to restore human life and not to dispense life. When doctors are taking an oath they promise to take good care of the sick and under no circumstance are they allowed to let or kill a patient. Therefore, encouraging them to carry out mercy-killing or physician-assisted suicide the doctors may be unwilling to undertake the task since it compromises their professional oath.

***Christianity is against it***

As a Christian I should stand against the practice of euthanasia since the bible supports a profile approach. Every human being is created in the image of god (genesis 1:26).we have an intrinsic god given value that no person should reduce or tamper with. Euthanasia, according to me is equivalent to murder or suicide, which is strongly condemned in the bible. I believe life is god’s gift and its end is to be determined only by him.

**Conclusion**

To wrap up, Euthanasia is the practice of ending the life of a patient to limit suffering. The patient in question is typically terminally ill or experiences great pain and suffering. Morally we should be compassionate to the dying and preach against any form of termination of human life, and as humans we have to bear our suffering and not end our life and lives of others to escape suffering. But if the patient’s pain is unbearable, if the patient’s probability of surviving is low and the medical bills are expensive to keep the patient under medication it’s a good idea to terminate their journey and carry out euthanasia.

**References**

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