Euthanasia in Florida

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**Euthanasia**

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.

The word “euthanasia” itself comes from the Greek word ‘eu’ (good) and ‘thanatos’’(death), (Gurney,1972). 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.

The moral meaning of euthanasia is; it seeks to provide the suffering patient with a good, gentle and painless death being an act of mercy, According to the entomology of the word “good death,” (Sackett, 1975) Giving priority to the quality of human life in its final phase by eliminating the suffering.

**Types of Euthanasia**

Different practices fall under the label “Euthanasia” the following are some distinctions demarcating different versions.

**Active euthanasia** -is the direct administration of a lethal substance to a patient by another party with a merciful intent (Abohaimed et al., 2019). Sometimes called “aggressive euthanasia’.

**Passive euthanasia** -intentionally allows a patient to die by withholding artificial life support such as a ventilator or feeding tube (Singer,1993). Some ethicists distinguish between withholding and withdrawing life support (the patient is on life support but then removed from it).

**Voluntary euthanasia**- was performed with patients consent (Young,1996).

**Involuntary euthanasia** -without the patient consent. Example; if the patient is unconscious and his or her wishes are unknown (Allen,,2005). Some ethicists distinguish between “involuntary” (against the patient’s wishes) and “non-voluntary” (without the patients’ consent but the wishes are unknown) forms.

**Self-administered euthanasia** is the administration of the means of death.

Another administered euthanasia is a person other than the patient who administers the means of death.

**Assisted euthanasia**: The patient administers the means of death, but with the assistance of another person, such as the physician.

There are many possible combinations of these types and many types of euthanasia are morally controversial. Some types of euthanasia, such as assisted voluntary euthanasia, are legal in some countries.

**Mercy-killing** –the term “mercy-killing” usually refers to active, involuntary, or non-voluntary and other administered euthanasia. In other words, someone kills a patient without their explicit consent to end their suffering.

**Physician-assisted suicide**–The phrase physician-assisted suicide refers to active, voluntary, assisted euthanasia where a physician assists a patient. A physician provides the patient with a means such as sufficient medication to kill him or herself.

Some instances of euthanasia have been relatively uncontroversial. Killing a patient against their will (involuntary, aggressive/active, and other-administered) is almost universally condemned. During the late 1930s and the early 1940s, Adolf Hitler carried out a program to exterminate children with disabilities (with or without their parents’ permission) under the guise of improving the Aryan “race” and reducing costs to society. Everyone now thinks this kind of euthanasia in the service of the eugenics program was clearly morally wrong.

**Law Regarding Euthanasia on 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:

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 a rational effect on the terminally ill, family, and friends. The following are my cited arguments for and against euthanasia.

**Arguments for Euthanasia;**

**Relieves guilt**

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

**Freedom of choice.**

During voluntary euthanasia, a person has consent over their life, whether they want to continue living without anyone forcing them to.

**Death with dignity**

Mercy-killing euthanasia helps patients die a dignified death and end their suffering. Dignity in death helps their souls to “rest in peace.” According to many cultures troubled death means a troubled community since the troubled souls “haunt the living.”

**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.

**Witnesses who pity the patient.**

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’s a form of murder.**

Involuntary euthanasia and passive euthanasia are forms of euthanasia that can be categorized as murder, since the wishes of the sick are not yet known. Doctors choose to let the patient die by withholding the life support machine or the feeding tube. The patient was not even given the choice to choose whether to continue living.

**Christianity is against this.**

According to the holy book, the Ten Commandments no human is allowed to terminate the life of another person since they have no authority, are considered murder, and are punishable by death. The only person authorized to take life is the one who gifts it. A good example is involuntary euthanasia, in which the patient’s life is terminated without their consent.

**It disrespects life.**

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.**

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.

**Conclusion**

To wrap up, in as much as euthanasia is typically described as “happy death,” involuntary euthanasia should not be administered since it undermines the value of life and it does not provide one with a wish thus leading to death of a “troubled soul” thus a haunted community. Therefore, the patient and family should be provided with a lucid understanding of euthanasia before deciding to terminate their life.

References

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