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EUTHANASIA IN CONTEXT OF BIOETHICS

The term Euthanasia originated from the Greek word for "good death." It is the act or practice of ending the life of a person either by lethal injection or the suspension of medical treatment. Because of this, many view euthanasia as simply bringing relief by alleviating pain and suffering.

It is practiced in places all over the world, with it being legal in places such as the Netherlands, Belgium, Colombia and Luxembourg. Assisted suicide is legal in Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Albania and in the US states of Washington, Oregon, Vermont, New Mexico, Montana and California. There are different forms of euthanasia. It could be active - to end a person's life by use of drugs, whether by oneself or with the aid of a physician, or passive - to end a person life by not taking the necessary and ordinary action to maintain life. This can be done by withdrawing water, food, drugs, medical or surgical procedures. It could also be voluntary euthanasia - when a competent person makes a voluntary and enduring request to be helped to die, or involuntary euthanasia - to end a person's life without their knowledge or consent. Most people think unbearable pain is the main reason people seek euthanasia, but some surveys in the USA and the Netherlands showed that less than a third of requests for euthanasia were because of severe pain. Psychological factors that cause people to think of euthanasia include depression, fearing loss of control or dignity, feeling a burden, or dislike of being dependent. Ethically, there have been numerous debates and conflicts about the creditability of the practice. Most religions disapprove of euthanasia. Some of them absolutely forbid it. The Roman Catholic Church, for example, is one of the most active organizations in opposing euthanasia. Virtually all religions state that those who become vulnerable through illness or disability deserve special care and protection, and that proper end of life care is a much better thing than euthanasia. The saying goes that, “God gives people life, so only God has the right to take it away.”