

EUTHANASIA

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Author: Kateřina Mayerová



THE DEFINITION OF EUTHANASIA

- The word “euthanasia” originates from the Greek words *eu-* (good) and *thanatos* (death).
- According to the World Medical Association euthanasia means: *“deliberate and intentional action with a clear intention to end another person’s life under the following conditions: the subject is a competent informed person with incurable illness who voluntarily asked for ending his life; the person who is acting knows about the state of this person and about his wish to die and is doing this action with an intention to end life of this person; the action is done with compassion and without any personal profit”*.



FORMS OF EUTHANASIA



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- **Active euthanasia** means ending life of a suffering person on his own request by another person, mostly by a doctor, and most of the time by lethal injection.
- This form has two varieties: **non-voluntary** and **involuntary**.
- **Passive euthanasia** means acceleration of death by letting the patient die naturally.
- **Assisted suicide** – the suffering person dies with another person's help.

EUTHANASIA IN TODAY'S WORLD



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- Countries which have legitimized euthanasia:
 - the Netherlands هولندا
 - Belgium بلجیکا
 - Oregon and Washington in the USA
 - Switzerland (only assisted suicide) سویسرا

Euthanasia in the Netherlands

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- It is the first country where euthanasia has been allowed since 1994.
- Criteria of practising euthanasia:
 - the patient has to be competent and the request voluntary and intentional,
 - the patient has to suffer unbearably,
 - euthanasia has to be the last choice,
 - euthanasia can be done only by a doctor.

Euthanasia in Belgium

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- The euthanasia law was adopted in 2001.
- This law defines conditions for doctors to avoid penal punishment.

Euthanasia in Switzerland

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- Assisted suicide is legitimized, not euthanasia done directly by patient's doctor.
- The patient himself commits suicide at special clinics.
- The doctor prescribes a poison which causes death – the patient himself has to drink the poison, otherwise it is a normal murder, considered as a crime.
- **“Suicide tourism”** – foreigners can come to Switzerland and commit assisted suicide.

Euthanasia in the USA

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- Impunity of euthanasia has been guaranteed in two states – Ohio and Iowa.
- The law of help in dying.

Euthanasia in the Czech Republic

جمهورية التشيك



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- The discussion about euthanasia was completely forbidden in the past by the communist party – it could be made after the year 1990.
- Legal norms do not include the term “euthanasia”, but it is indirectly regulated by numbers of norms, particularly by penal (criminal) code and civil code.
- The penal code: *“If the culprit kills another person out of compassion to accelerate his unavoidable near death and thereby liberates this person from cruel pain caused by incurable illness, the court can exceptionally mitigate the sentence or can refrain from punishment”*.



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- Thus euthanasia in the Czech Republic is not legitimized, according to the penal code it depends on the court and the judge to decide whether to punish a doctor who helped his patient or not.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST EUTHANASIA



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- Euthanasia devalues human life.
- Euthanasia can become a means of health care cost containment.
- Euthanasia will become non-voluntary.
- Euthanasia would not only be for people who are terminally ill.

ARGUMENTS FOR EUTHANASIA



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- Euthanasia provides a way to relieve extreme pain.
- Euthanasia provides a way of relief when a person's quality of life is low.
- Euthanasia frees up medical funds to help other people.
- It is another case of freedom of choice – the right to commit suicide.
- People should not be forced to stay alive.



لا يجوز إقدام المسلم على ما يسمى بالموت الرحيم لأي سبب كان

الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آله وصحبه، أما بعد:

فلا يجوز للمسلم الإقدام على قتل نفسه لأي سبب من الأسباب لقوله تعالى: **وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَجِيمًا (النساء:29)** . ولقوله صلى الله عليه وسلم: من قتل نفسه بحديدة فحديده يتوجأ بها في بطنه في نار جهنم خالدًا مخلدًا فيها أبداً، ومن شرب سماً فقتل نفسه، فهو يتحساه في نار جهنم خالدًا مخلدًا فيها أبداً، ومن تردى من جبل فقتل نفسه، فهو يتردى في نار جهنم خالدًا مخلدًا فيها أبداً. رواه البخاري ومسلم.

ولا يبرر ذلك فعله بدعوى الرحمة، وقد أطبق الفقهاء المعاصرون على الفتوى بذلك.

فقد جاء في فتاوى الأزهر: والمريض أياً كان مرضه وكيف كانت حالة مرضه لا يجوز قتله لليأس من شفائه. اهـ

وجاء في فتاوى قطاع الإفتاء بالكويت: إن التخلص من المريض بأية وسيلة محرمة قطعاً، ومن يقوم بذلك يكون قاتلاً عمداً. اهـ