



At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

* discuss and share the practice of euthanasia in some countries and enumerate some of its types.

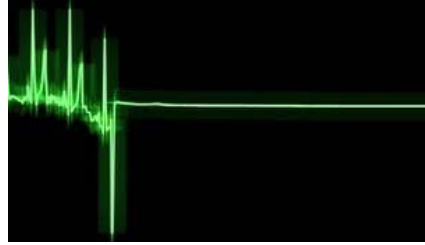


Passage

Euthanasia is defined as the practice of ending a life **prematurely** in order to end pain and suffering. The process is also sometimes called **Mercy Killing**. Euthanasia can fall into several categories. **Voluntary Euthanasia** is carried out with the permission of the person whose life is taken. **Involuntary euthanasia** is carried out without permission, such as in the case of a criminal **execution**. The moral and social questions surrounding these practices are the most active fields of research in Bioethics today.

There is a lot of controversy surrounding the issue of euthanasia and whether or not it should be legal. From a **legal standpoint**, the Encyclopedia of American Law categorizes mercy killing as a class of criminal homicide. Judicially, not all homicide is illegal. Killing is seen as excusable when used as a criminal punishment, but inexcusable when carried out for any other reason.

Arguments regarding the euthanasia debate often depend on the method used to take the life of the patient. The Oregon Death with Dignity Act made it legal for residents to request a lethal injection from a doctor. This is seen in other jurisdictions as being a criminal form of homicide. However, **passive euthanasia** through denial of drugs or procedures is considered to be legal in almost all jurisdictions.



Let's Talk

1. How do you see Euthanasia?
2. What's the state of Euthanasia in your country? Is it being practiced?
3. Do you think Euthanasia should be legalized? Support your answer.
4. According to survey, a lot of hospitals around the world are practicing passive euthanasia. Do you agree with this?
5. Would you consider euthanasia to your loved ones especially if you've seen them suffering a lot?
6. Do you know of a person who asked for euthanasia due to his/her sickness? Tell me about it.