

## Abstract

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**Aim:** The aim of this thesis is to explore as much as possible the issues of euthanasia that is one of the most controversial topics of the modern era. Euthanasia interferes with various aspects of the human life – ethic, moral, legal and religious. However, it is vital to determine what can be labelled as euthanasia.

**Principal information:** Euthanasia is called “good” or “merciful” death. Nevertheless, it is an intended termination of the life of dying people that is carried out by a doctor on the basis of a voluntary demand from patients. Therefore, euthanasia could significantly affect the patient – doctor relationship which is based on certain moral values. For this reason, from the ethical and moral point of view, it is considered an unacceptable act.

Concerning laws in the Czech Republic, euthanasia is judged as a crime – murder. Currently, society is heading step by step towards the legalization of euthanasia which has not been approved so far, but it is necessary to wait for what the future has in store for us. In the EU countries they already have some experience with euthanasia. It was legalized in the Netherlands and Belgium, but only under restricted circumstances.

As counterparts of the steps taken in the direction of the legalization of euthanasia, there are the examples of palliative care, which focuses on the issues of dying patients and teaches them how to live during the process of dying; the contradiction between the religion and euthanasia; traditions and customs, which dominate in the world’s major religions: Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism.

**Conclusion:** Due to all these reasons, it is vital to regard the issues of the death and the process of dying in a wider context, especially taking into account ethic and religious norms. All depends on global, deep changes in society and every individual.

**Key words:** euthanasia, assisted suicide, the issue of the process of dying and the death, doctor, patient, palliative care.