

Comparison of Jurisdictions with some form of Euthanasia

	Oregon	Holland	Belgium	Switzerland
What is legal?	Physician-assisted suicide	Voluntary euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide	Euthanasia (method seemingly not defined)	Physician and non-physician assisted suicide
Description of illness	Patient must be terminally ill and diagnosed as having less than 6 months to live.	Intolerable pain (either physical or emotional) must be being suffered which is "lasting and unbearable" with no prospect for improvement. It must be "force majeure" - everything has been tried but nothing succeeded, a last resort.	Patient must be in a "hopeless" medical situation and constantly suffering unbearably either physically or psychologically.	Patient need not be terminally ill.
Age	Adult - 18 and over	Teenagers aged 16 - 18 may request and receive euthanasia if a parent/guardian has been involved in the process (they don't necessarily have to agree). Children aged 12 - 16 require a parent/guardian's consent.	Adult - 18 and over	Adult - 18 and over
Nature of Request	15 day wait after first request followed by 2 oral requests and 1 written to physician which must be signed by 2 witnesses (1 of whom is not a member of the family, healthcare team or a beneficiary of the will) declaring that the patient is acting voluntarily and not being coerced to sign the request.	Requests must be well-considered, persistent and maintained. Advance written statements by people aged 16 and over requesting termination of life may be carried out if the person is subsequently no longer capable of expressing their will.	All requests must be voluntary, well-considered and repeated. Patients must be of sound mind. A written request is needed and euthanasia must be requested at least 1 month before the killing.	Prosecution would only occur if there were doubts as to the patient's capacity to make a decision.
Professional Opinions Required	Second doctor's opinion confirming patient is mentally competent and not suffering from depression or another mental illness.	Other independent physicians in the field must be consulted.	Another doctor must confirm the incurable nature of the disease and the unbearable state of suffering. A second opinion is also required if the patient is not in the final stages of a terminal illness.	The involvement of a physician is not required.
Actual Act	Patients must physically perform the act themselves - lethal injections, euthanasia and mercy killings are forbidden.	The act must be performed by a physician with due care.	It is left to negotiation between the doctor and patient as to whether death is by lethal injection or prescribed overdose.	The act may be performed by anyone and is only considered a crime if the motive is selfish. In practise, many hospitals have barred assisted suicide from their premises and many physicians oppose the practise. Lethal injections are forbidden.
Reports	There is no punishment for a doctor who fails to report an assisted suicide.	Euthanasia must be reported on death certificates and to the proper authorities.	A permanent committee has been established to monitor the deaths and must approve an official form which the doctor fills out whilst assisting the suicide.	These deaths are not differentiated from unassisted suicides in official records although police are informed.
Applicable to residents only?	Patient must be a resident of Oregon.	Euthanasia can be administered to non-residents.	Patient must be a resident of Belgium.	Non-residents may be assisted with suicide provided they are critically, terminally ill.