Medical Law

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**Life of Terry Schiavo, or the lack of it**

Today the case of Tery Schivo is reviewed and In order to comprehend all the facts, it is essential to look at the case under the light of privacy and confidentiality as well legalities and ethical considerations. In this case, it is evident that not only was the privacy of the patient and the families concerned was violated, but the ramifications of health information becoming a public property were global. Even though this review intends to speak in favour of the defendant, both the sides are duly reviewed.

Since legally the guardian of Mrs.Schiavo during her vegetative state was her husband, and there was no POA, legal separation papers or written legal agreement stating otherwise he was in the right to make the decision on her behalf. Nevertheless given ethical and global conditions of this particular case the sentiments of the family cannot be overlooked. As a parent it is very difficult to make such a difficult decision, which was duly considered by the initial investigation and sometimes doctors over-rode the husband’s decision as the husband would choose to stop the treatment because he believed his wife would never want to live this way, attached to a feeding tube (The Terry Schiavo story, 2019)  
 Yet there were no cognitive or physical improvements seen it became imperative to make a decision. It is to note here that by no means does that imply support in the process with which the decision was executed. Instead of removing the feeding tube and forcing the patient to starve to death a more humane approach could have been employed. But there was no quality of life your honour and the decision to end the misery of the poor woman was needed. My support lies with the decision to end her misery because even if Mrs Schiavo was alive she was not living.

As its essential to have understanding, that trying to prolong the life of a patient at all cost is not the only duty however; a doctor also has the accountability to know when to start and terminate all medical help in order to save the patient from undue distress (Euthanasia, human rights and the law ISSUES PAPER May 2016).

**References**

Euthanasia, human rights and the law iSSUE PAPER May 2016. (2016). Retrieved from https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/2016\_AHRC\_euthanasia\_human\_rights\_law.pdf

The Terri Schiavo Story. (2019). YouTube. Retrieved 20 April 2019, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cki55BM42kw>