

Department of Medical Ethics
 Legal Status of Assisted Suicide in the United States

Summary

State by State Legal Status of Assisting Suicide					
	<i>Statute Prevents</i>	<i>Statute has Civil Remedy</i>	<i>Common Law Against (arguably)</i>	<i>No Law</i>	<i>Statute Expressly Authorizes</i>
TOTALS	38	11	5	7	2
<i>Alabama</i>				X	
<i>Alaska</i>	X				
<i>Arkansas</i>	X				
<i>Arizona</i>	X				
<i>California</i>	X				
<i>Colorado</i>	X				
<i>Connecticut</i>	X				
<i>Delaware</i>	X				
<i>D.C.</i>			X		
<i>Florida</i>	X				
<i>Georgia</i>	X				
<i>Hawaii</i>				X	
<i>Iowa</i>	X				
<i>Idaho</i>			X		
<i>Illinois</i>				X	

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<i>Indiana</i>	X				
<i>Kansas</i>	X	X			
<i>Kentucky</i>	X	X			
<i>Louisiana</i>	X				
<i>Maine</i>	X				
<i>Maryland</i>	X				
<i>Massachusetts</i>			X		
<i>Michigan</i>	X				
<i>Minnesota</i>	X	X			
<i>Missouri</i>	X				
<i>Mississippi</i>	X				
<i>Montana</i>	X				
<i>Nebraska</i>	X				
<i>Nevada</i>				X	
<i>N. Carolina</i>				X	
<i>N. Dakota</i>	X	X			
<i>N. Hamp.</i>	X				
<i>N. Jersey</i>	X				
<i>N. Mexico</i>	X				
<i>N. York</i>	X				
<i>Ohio</i>	X	X			
<i>Oklahoma</i>	X	X			
<i>Oregon</i>					X

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<i>Pennsylvania</i>	X				
<i>Rhode Island</i>	X	X			
<i>S. Carolina</i>	X	X			
<i>S. Dakota</i>	X	X			
<i>Tennessee</i>	X	X			
<i>Texas</i>	X				
<i>Utah</i>				X	
<i>Vermont</i>			X		
<i>Virginia</i>	X	X			
<i>Washington</i>					X
<i>W. Virginia</i>			X		
<i>Wisconsin</i>	X				
<i>Wyoming</i>				X	
TOTALS	38	11	5	7	2

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Details and Documentation

AK	Alaska Stat. §11.41.120 (LEXIS through 2000 legislation).	Prohibits by statute.
AL	Ala. Code §13A-6-3 (Michie, LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	No law. Official commentary indicates that extreme cases may be prosecuted as manslaughter.
AR	Ark. Code Ann. §5-10-104 (Michie, LEXIS through 2000 legislation).	Prohibits by statute.
AZ	Ariz. Rev. Stat. §13-1103 (LEXIS through 2000 legislation).	Prohibits by statute.
CA	Cal. Penal Code §401 (Deering, LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
CO	Colo. Rev. Stat. §18-3-104 (LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
CT	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. §53a-56 (LEXIS through 1999-2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
DC	D.C. Code Ann. §22-107 (LEXIS through D.C. Reg. 06/30/ 2000).	No law. May prohibit by common law.
DE	Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, §645 (LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
FL	Fla. Stat. § 782.08 (LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
GA	Ga. Code Ann. §16-5-5 (LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.

HI	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 707-702(1)(b)	No law specifically against assisting suicide. Penalizes for manslaughter one who “intentionally causes another person to commit suicide.”
IA	Iowa Code Ann. § 707A.2 (LEXIS through 2000 legislation).	Prohibits by statute.
ID	Idaho Code §18-303 (Michie, LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.). (generally recognizing common law offenses as crimes)	No law. May prohibit by common law.
IL	720 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. §5/12-31 (West, LEXIS through 2000 Act 91-954).	No law specifically directed at assisted suicide. Prohibits "inducement" to commit suicide by statute. This does not necessarily prohibit all assisted suicide.
IN	Ind. Code Ann. §35-42-1-2.5 (Michie, LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
KS	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-3406; 60-4401 tp 60-4407 (LEXIS through 2000 Supp.).	Prohibits by statute. Includes a civil action.
KY	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 216.302 (Michie, LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute. Includes a civil action.
LA	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:32.12 (West, LEXIS through 1999 session).	Prohibits by statute.
MA	<i>Commonwealth v. Mink</i> , 123 Mass. 422 (1877)	No law. May prohibit by common law. The case does not clearly involve assisted suicide.
MD	Md. Code Ann. art. 27 § 416 (LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Will prohibit by statute on October 1, 1999.
ME	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 17-A, §204 (West, LEXIS through 2000 Supp.).	Prohibits by statute.
MI	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. §750.329a (LEXIS through 2000 legislation).	Prohibits by statute.
MN	Minn. Stat. Ann. §609.215 (LEXIS through 2000 legislation).	Prohibits by statute. Includes a civil remedy.
MO	Mo. Rev. Stat. §565.023 (LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute

MS	Miss. Code Ann. §97-3-49 (LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
MT	Mont. Code Ann. §45-5-105 (LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
NC	N.C. Gen. Stat. §14-17.1 (http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Statutes/Statutes.html , last visited 3/7/2003).	No law. Statute abolished common law crime of suicide.
ND	N.D. Cent. Code §12.1-16-04 (LEXIS through 1999 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute. Includes a civil action.
NE	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. §28-307 (Michie, LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
NH	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §630:4 (LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
NJ	N.J. Stat. Ann. §2C:11-6 (West, LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
NM	N.M. Stat. Ann. §30-2-4 (Michie, LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
NV		No law.
NY	N.Y. Penal Law §125.15 (McKinney, LEXIS through Ch. 49, 06/06/2001).	Prohibits by statute. Upheld by the United States Supreme Court.
OH	Oh. Rev. Code §3795.01 to 3795.03 (H.B. 474 passed 2002)	Provides civil injunctive relief against, and revocation of health professional licenses for, assisting suicide. Signed by Gov. 12/23/02; takes effect about 90 days thereafter.
OK	Okla. Stat. tit. 63, §§ 3141.1 to 3141.8 (LEXIS through 2001 Supplement)	Prohibits by statute. Provides a civil action.
OR	Or. Rev. Stat. §163.125 (LEXIS through 1999 legislation).	Prohibits by statute except that Or. Rev. Stat §§ 127.800 et seq. (1995) allows physician assisted suicide (Measure 16).
PA	18 Pa. Cons. Stat. §2505 (LEXIS through 2000 Act 86).	Prohibits by statute.
RI	R.I. Gen. Laws §11-60-1 to -5 (LEXIS through 2000 Sess..)	Prohibits by statute. Includes a civil remedy.

SC	S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-1090 (Law. Co-Op., LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute. Includes a civil remedy.
SD	S.D. Codified Laws §22-16-37 (Michie, LEXIS through 2000 Legis. Sess.).	Prohibits by statute. Amended to include civil remedies.
TN	Tenn. Code Ann. §39-13-216 (LEXIS through 2000 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute. Includes a civil remedy.
TX	Tex. Penal Code §22.08 (Vernon, LEXIS through 1999 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute.
UT		No law.
VA	Va. Code §8.01-662.1 (Michie, LEXIS through 2001 Sess.).	Prohibits by statute. Includes civil remedies. Does not include criminal punishment.
VT	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 1, §271 (LEXIS through 12/31/2001).	No law. May prohibit by common law. No case law clearly indicates that assisted suicide would be found criminal.
WA	Wash. Rev. Code. Ann. §9A.36.060 modified by Initiative Measure 1000 (http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/en/Documents/I1000-Text%20for%20web.pdf).	Prohibits by statute except that Measure 1000 (2008) allows physician assisted suicide).
WI	Wis. Stat. §940.12 (LEXIS through 1999-2000 legislation).	Prohibits by statute.
WV	<i>State v. General Daniel Morgan Post No. 548</i> , 144 W. Va. 137, 107 S.E. 2d 353 (1959)	No law. May prohibit by common law. No case law clearly indicates that assisted suicide would be found criminal.
WY		No law.

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