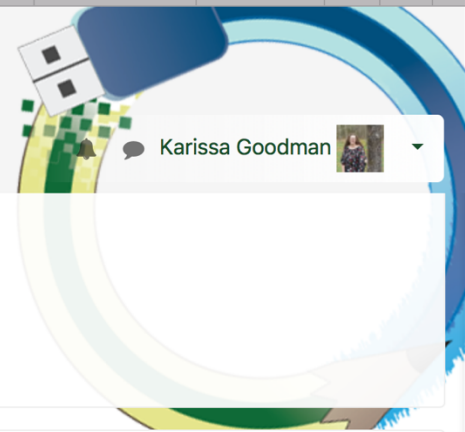




eClass



Karissa Goodman

# S20S1 Trauma/Emerg Mgt:Emph I (SOCW-671-A)

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## Discussion Question #1

"Suppose you are faced with a terminally ill client who is in a great deal of pain. The client indicates to you in a calm, reasonable way that she is going to drive out to an isolated spot in a state park, go sit under her favorite tree, and after making a farewell message to her family, will kill herself. Discuss the ethical, legal, and moral dilemmas you would be faced with in this situation."

### Response guidelines:

Respond to at least 2 of your classmates. Critique and extend the dialogue of the initial response.

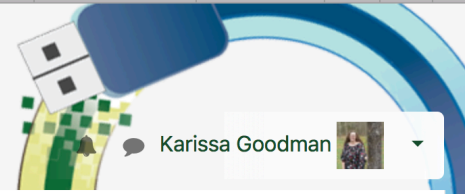
Initial response due June 15 @ 11:55pm. Responses due June 30 @ 11:55pm.

6 discussions





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### DQ #1

4 days ago

1 reply



Last 18 hours ago



In the state of Tennessee, euthanasia and assisted suicide are not legal. As social workers, we are trained in the confidentiality statement which includes having to break confidentiality and report our clients if they mention harm to others AND harm to themselves. This includes all forms of suicide. Legally, my license is at stake if I do not report this. If I was working in a state that does have euthanasia rules and policies, I would still document this in my report and tell my supervisor as well as refer the client to that agency. After reporting this and following the proper steps, I would connect this client with a hospice agency whose goal is pain reduction. After working in hospice for a year, I learned that reducing an individual's pain is the number one goal for those nearing the end of life. But what if nothing would help this client's pain? Am I truly helping this patient by blocking them from doing what they want and are determined to do? Am I helping? Who am I to take this choice away? I know their quality of life will not get any better and cannot even imagine the amount of pain that they are in - which will most likely get worse with time. My view and perspective on euthanasia have changed over time. I can credit my time at Welcome Home Chattanooga and the class "Death and Dying" for that. I had this one client who was "supposed to die" two years previous to when I had met her. This lady's spirit had left her, and she would lay in her bed moaning, crying out, and begging for the pain to stop. My heart broke for her every day. We did what we could for her - pain management, making her comfortable, and tending to her needs. Watching her suffer as she did also put stress on those close to her and I saw the effects of it. She did end up passing away while I was at Welcome Home, and I remember our conversations about her death were more uplifting. We were so happy she was no longer in any pain and was no longer suffering. These experiences have changed my perspective on this topic, and I believe that I am better because of it.

