



Rodriguez v. British Columbia (Attorney General) 1993 CanLII 75 (S.C.C.)

Sue Rodriguez was a victim of a terminal disease that would soon leave her helpless. She was told that she had no more than three years to live. Once she was unable to enjoy life, she hoped that someone would be able to help her end her life. In Canada, it is not illegal to commit suicide. However, it is illegal for anyone to assist in a suicide.

Rodriguez argued that the law denying assisted suicide violated her right to life, liberty, and security of the person. The Supreme Court disagreed with Rodriguez. It kept the law on assisted suicide in the *Criminal Code*. The court commented that the objective of the law was to preserve life and protect the vulnerable in society.

On February 12, 1994, Rodriguez committed suicide with the help of an anonymous doctor.

Questions:

1. Do you agree with the Supreme Court's decision in this case?
2. Do you think the assisted suicide law should still be in the Criminal Code? Justify your answer.



Sue Rodriguez is pushed in her wheelchair by *Right to Die* activist John Hofsess as they prepare to enter a downtown Victoria Hotel for a news conference in 1993.