

# Letting-Die: 3 Cases

Quinlan, Cruzan, and Bouvia



**Question 1.** How would different ethical frameworks view these cases?

**Question 2.** How would this week's authors view these cases?

# Karen Ann Quinlan

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- **Born:** 1954
- **Overdose:** 1975  
Quinlan is left in a persistent vegetative state at age 21.
- **Ventilation Removed:** 1976  
Quinlan stabilizes and survives.
- **Death:** 1985  
Quinlan dies of pneumonia.



# Elizabeth Bouvia

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- **Born: 1958**

Bouvia is born with Cerebral Palsy, and lacks basic motor abilities.

- **Psychiatric Ward: 1983**

Bouvia is alienated from her family and almost totally paralyzed at age 26

- **Request to starve: 1983**

Psychiatric ward denies her request to stop feeding her. Courts reject her appeals.



# Nancy Cruzan

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- **Born: 1957**
- **Car Accident: 1983.**  
Cruzan is left in a persistent vegetative state at age 25
- **Court Battle Begins: 1987**  
Court investigates evidence for “Nancy’s wishes”
- **Feeding Tube Removed: 1990**  
Cruzan dies of dehydration and starvation 12 days later.

