

CASE OF ROBERT LATIMER- FACTS OF THE CASE AND TIME-LINE

On October 24, 1993, Robert Latimer, a farmer from Saskatchewan, placed the helpless body of his 12 year old daughter, Tracy, in his pick up truck and connected a hose from the exhaust to the cab resulting in her asphyxiation by carbon monoxide poisoning. Tracy had been born severely disabled with cerebral palsy and at age 12 still had the mental capacity of a three month old. She was completely dependent on her parents for round the clock care. Just prior to the events that would lead to his arrest, Latimer had been told that his daughter would require further operations to correct a hip dislocation that had been aggravated by her advanced scoliosis- a condition that had reached the point where her spine diverged from a perpendicular position by 75%. He was advised that the operation would place her in even greater pain than the intense pain she was already experiencing. Moreover, because of other anti-convulsive medication she had to take to control her epileptic seizures, she could not be given pain killers of greater strength than regular Tylenol without the risk of inducing a coma. Latimer would later contend that he was faced with the dilemma of subjecting his daughter to ever more agonizing operations without the ability to limit the intensity of her pain because of the adverse interaction between the drugs she was taking and any pain medication stronger than regular Tylenol. It was under these circumstances, he would claim, that he chose to end her life.

October 24, 1993- Wilkie, Saskatchewan, Latimer 'places' his 12 year old severely disabled daughter- Tracy -in cab of pickup truck- piping CO into the cab through a series of connecting pipes and hoses and resulting in her death by asphyxiation.

November 4, 1993- RCMP bring Latimer in for questioning- arrest him on charge of 1st degree murder-

November 16, 1994- Latimer found guilty of 2nd degree murder- Court of Queen's Bench, Saskatchewan- automatic 10 yr. sentence minimum before parole eligibility-

November 25, 1994- Latimer released on bail while his case is under appeal-

July 18, 1995- Saskatchewan Court of Appeal upholds verdict and sentence in 2-1 split decision- Latimer released on bail while case is appealed to Supreme Court of Canada

February 6, 1997- Supreme Court of Canada orders new trial on grounds that Crown Counsel interfered with jury through questionnaire administered by RCMP canvassing attitudes towards euthanasia.

November 5, 1997- Second trial of Robert Latimer begins resulting in second conviction for second degree murder- Court of Queen's Bench-

**December 1, 1997- Trial judge grants Latimer a constitutional exemption from mandatory minimum of 10 years instead sentencing him to a year in jail and one year under house arrest-
Decision appealed by both Crown and Defense counsel-**

November 23, 1998- Saskatchewan Court of Appeal unanimously affirms conviction but overturns constitutional exemption resulting in reinstatement of 10 year mandatory minimum for 2nd degree murder.

February 1, 1999- leave to appeal to Supreme Court

January 18, 2001- Supreme Court dismisses appeals of conviction and sentence thereby affirming conviction and 10 year mandatory minimum for 2nd degree murder- suggests that only remaining route to reprieve is clemency-

2001-2004- Petitions for clemency launched

December 5, 2007- Application for day parole rejected by National Parole Board

February 27, 2008- Reversal of decision of National Parole Board by Appeal Division of National Board thereby allowing Latimer day parole.