

**“They’re Going To
Kill My Daughter,
Terri Schiavo,
Unless Good People
Like You
Help Us Stop Them!”**



Terri Schiavo

WARNING: What you’re about to read will probably make your blood boil. You may even find it too painful to read. But imagine how painful it is for my family to live with.

And, keep in mind how painful it will be for Terri to die from.

FROM: St. Petersburg, Florida
Thursday, 9:30 A.M.

Dear Friend of Life,

As a father, watching my little girl grow up, I never imagined I’d be writing a letter to complete strangers – desperately asking them to help me save her life.

I also never imagined that I’d have to keep *the man she married* from killing her!

But that’s where my wife and I find ourselves – embroiled in a bitter, expensive, high-profile case that pits today’s “culture of death” against those of us who still believe that human life is a sacred, precious gift from God that cannot be “terminated” for the sake of “convenience.”

I’m sure you’ve heard of the case of my daughter, **Terri Schiavo**, and how her husband eagerly wants her to die by starvation and dehydration.

But before I go any further, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bob Schindler. My wife, Mary, and I have been fighting this case for over 10 years. It has exhausted us physically

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Just recently, Terri started vomiting severely. But her husband Michael has given strict orders to her doctors and nurses not to give us ANY information about what’s going on! We don’t know what tricks Michael may have up his sleeve. We need your help NOW to save Terri’s life!

and emotionally, and it has exhausted us financially. I've already spent my entire life savings and my retirement fund on the legal process.

The only thing that has kept us going is our faith in God... and the timely, generous help we've received from the dedicated attorneys with the **Life Legal Defense Foundation**.

You see, for many years I tried to fight this battle by myself. But I didn't realize what I was up against. I never thought the courts and the doctors could be so cold-hearted as to *order* my daughter to die by starvation and dehydration.

But they have.

Terri, as you may know, suffered brain damage due to an unexplained (and suspicious) "collapse" in 1990, when she was only 26 years old. Her brain was deprived of oxygen for as long as 10 minutes, and she is therefore severely disabled.

But she is NOT "brain dead," as the news media would have you believe. She is NOT in a "persistent vegetative state," as her husband, **Michael Schiavo**, wants everybody to believe. And she is NOT being kept alive by "extraordinary" means. She's being kept alive by food and water – *just like you and me!*



“Help Me!”

Especially in the earlier years after her ‘accident,’ Terri was very aware of things that went on around her in the nursing home. She would laugh, smile, say hi, respond to questions, sit in a chair, and interact with the nurses. She was especially responsive when my wife, myself, and my two other children would come to visit her. She still loved to listen to her favorite music, and she was even able to eat soft food just like any other patient in her condition.

**Quite often, over the years, Terri would even tell the nurses,
“Help me.”**

However, a couple of years after Terri's collapse, her husband (as her legal guardian) won a large award in a malpractice lawsuit on Terri's behalf. Almost immediately, he gave *strict orders* that she was not to be given *any* rehabilitation or physical therapy – even though that's what the money (**\$1.2 million**) was supposed to pay for.

Michael also put a “Do Not Resuscitate” order on Terri's chart. He tried to prevent the nurses from treating Terri's infections – expecting her to develop sepsis and die. He did not allow her to be given speech or swallow therapy. He did not allow her to be given a

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“system” for communicating. He also put her in *isolation* and would not allow her to socialize with any of the other patients.

Not only that, but Terri has not been given the opportunity to be weaned off the feeding tube so that she could take food and water by mouth (even though *two* esteemed speech pathologists say she has an excellent prognosis for being taken off her feeding tube). Instead, Michael has required that Terri just lay in bed for more than ten years, attached to that feeding tube.

As anyone can see, Michael wants Terri to die – not get better.

Why? We suspect it’s because he stands to inherit the remaining money from the malpractice lawsuit that’s in Terri’s trust account.

(Incidentally, Michael is on record as saying that he could *never* order the withdrawal of Terri’s life support. But *after the money came in*, he changed his mind and stopped Terri’s rehabilitation. And it wasn’t until 1998 that he suddenly “remembered” that Terri once told him, long before the accident, that she would not want to be kept alive “artificially” if anything ever happened to her. How convenient.)

By the way, Michael now also plans to *remarry*. Even though he and Terri are still technically married, he’s living with another woman. In fact, he has already fathered *two children* with her. But he can’t marry her as long as Terri is still alive.

Our Family’s Heartbreaking Struggle

Long ago, my wife and I realized that Michael did not have Terri’s best interests at heart. That’s when we petitioned the court to allow us to be her legal guardians – since Michael obviously has *a strong conflict of interest* regarding Terri’s life and her health care.

But the courts have been against us from the beginning.

And... Michael has had *a great deal of money* at his disposal to fight us. Court records show that more than *half* of the money from the malpractice lawsuit (which was supposed to go towards Terri’s care) has been spent on Michael’s legal fight against us (and against Terri).

In fact, back in 1998, Michael petitioned the court for permission to *disconnect Terri’s feeding tube* so that she would die by starvation and dehydration. Michael claimed that Terri was in a “persistent vegetative state” (PVS), which, by Florida law, would allow the removal of the feeding tube in ‘hopeless’ cases.

Naturally, my wife and I fought Michael tooth and nail on this, because we knew Terri wasn’t ‘hopeless.’ Our evidence? *Four* board-certified neurologists... *two* board-certified internists... numerous other doctors... *two* speech pathologists... and a neuro-psychologist all say that Terri is not in PVS. Several of her nurses came forward to say this, too.

Other experts long ago confirmed that Terri could achieve significant recovery and lead a long, happy life if she were given proper rehab.

But Michael refused to allow proper rehab.

The legal fight continued. Michael hired an ardent *pro-euthanasia* attorney, **George Felos**, to represent him. And, to make a long story short, Michael finally won. On October 15, 2003,

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the court ordered that Terri's feeding tube be removed, and that she should be deprived of *all* food and water so that she would, at last, die.

For **6-1/2 DAYS**, her feeding tube had been removed. Terri's murder had begun. It takes as little as 10 to 14 *agonizing* days to die of starvation and dehydration. But thanks to God, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush stepped in and gave Terri a "stay of execution." She's back on the feeding tube – but maybe not for long.

“When Is That Bitch Gonna Die?”

Please forgive me. Those aren't my words. Those are Michael's.

Three of Terri's former nurses came forward several months ago and gave sworn affidavits about Michael's behavior when Terri was in the nursing home.

One of the most shocking things they revealed is that Michael would come to the nursing home and say horrible things to the staff members, such as, “*When is she going to die?*” ... “*Has she died yet?*” ... and “*When is that bitch gonna die?!?*”

Nurse Carla Iyer attested that Michael said, “*Can't anything be done to accelerate her death? Won't she ever die?*”

She said that when Terri wouldn't die after a particular illness, such as pneumonia, Michael would become furious.

He also didn't want my wife and I to be given any information about Terri. He gave strict orders, such as, “*Make sure the parents aren't contacted.*” There was even a large sign in the front of her medical chart that said ‘*under no circumstances is the family to be called.*’

Michael intimidated the nurses and other staff members. Nurse Iyer said that she was told, in no uncertain terms, “*Do what Michael Schiavo tells you or you will be terminated.*”

Being a large man, Michael would use menacing body language and yell at the nurses who wanted to give Terri proper care, saying such things as, “*This is my order and you're going to follow it!*”

Under Michael's control, nothing was done for Terri at all. No antibiotics. No tests. No “range of motion” therapy. No stimulation. No rehab.

No nothing.

But the good nurses would try to care for Terri anyway. Nurse Iyer said that one time she put a rolled-up washcloth in Terri's hand to keep her fingers from curling in. But Michael saw it and made her take it out, saying it was therapy.

Wait. It gets worse...

“I'm Going To Be Rich!”

When Terri would get sick from time to time (such as a cold or flu), Michael would become visibly excited, even thrilled – hoping she would die. He would tell the nurses, “*Hallelujah! You've made my day!*” He'd constantly call Nurse Iyer, who was the supervising nurse, wanting to know all Terri's vital signs and asking if she was dead yet.

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Nurse Iyer said that Michael would blurt out, “I’m going to be rich!” And he would talk about all the things he would buy when Terri died, such as a new car, a new boat, a trip to Europe, and other things.

Sometimes when Michael visited Terri, he would come alone, take Terri’s medical chart into the room with him, and closed and locked the door. Twenty minutes later when he left, Terri would be trembling, crying hysterically, and would be very pale and have cold sweats.

In her affidavit, Nurse Iyer said she sometimes thought Terri was having a hypoglycemic reaction. She would check Terri’s blood sugar, and it would be so low, it was below the range where the glucometer would even register an actual number. Nurse Iyer would give Terri dextrose to counteract the low blood sugar. She says this happened about five times on her shift alone – *each time after Michael’s visits*. At first it was mere speculation that Michael may have injected Terri with Regular Insulin, which is very fast acting and would produce such a reaction as this. Later, she and another caregiver found an empty insulin vial in the trash can in Terri’s room, which wasn’t there before Michael’s visit. Then, she knew.

Two other nurses who gave sworn affidavits also suspected that Michael was emotionally and perhaps physically abusing Terri when he came to visit her – due to Terri’s extremely agitated state after he left.

Heidi Law, a Certified Nursing Assistant, stated in her affidavit that she and another CNA who cared for Terri would secretly give her the physical therapy that Michael had blocked. She said, “Our hearts would race and we were always on the look-out for Michael, because we knew that, not only would Michael take his anger out on us, but he would take it out *more* on Terri. We spoke of this many times.”

You can’t imagine my emotions when I first read these affidavits several months ago. They still enrage me.

I’m her father, and I’m legally *powerless* to protect my little girl from such unspeakable abuse!

But even more disturbing is the strong evidence that Michael is perhaps *responsible* for Terri’s “collapse” in 1990.

Was Terri Beaten By Michael?

Unknown to my wife and I (because Michael never let us see Terri’s medical records), Terri underwent a bone scan way back in 1991 because Terri would cry out in pain during her early therapy. This bone scan turned up many shocking facts.

First of all, the physician who conducted the bone scan, **Dr. W. Campbell Walker**, wrote in his report that, “This patient has a history of trauma.” He listed apparent injuries (mostly fractures) to Terri’s ribs, her lumbar vertebrae, her sacroiliac joints (which are near the hip), both her ankles and both her knees.

Famed New York forensic pathologist **Dr. Michael Baden** – who was contacted by the news media, *not us* – looked at this report not long ago and concluded, “It shows evidence that there are bone fractures that are in a healing stage... The trauma could be from some kind of beating that she obtained from somebody somewhere. It’s something that should have been

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investigated in 1991.” But we never even saw this report. And when we sought to have it investigated after finding it last year, the courts refused to permit it.

Could it be possible that Michael is guilty of spousal abuse? He’s certainly abusing her now. **Could he have *caused* the trauma that put Terri in this condition to begin with?** Could he have beaten her and even *strangled* her, which would have caused the oxygen loss to her brain?

And... could that be another reason why he wants her to die – since she’d be able to tell everyone what *really happened* if she eventually recovered? (Could this also be why he wants her body *cremated* right away when she dies? Today’s forensic science can discover all kinds of things in an autopsy that could make Michael Schiavo *very* uncomfortable.)

It is our family’s strong suspicion that all this is true. We know for a fact that Michael was verbally abusive toward Terri. She struggled with her weight when she was young, and after she met Michael, he constantly tormented her about being “fat.”

It’s ironic and *sick* that he now wants to starve her to death.

All of this might lead you to ask...

How Could Someone Do All This To Another Human Being???

I don’t know. I honestly don’t know.

If you tried to starve your *dog* to death, you’d feel the full force of the law and the wrath of every decent person in society.

But these days, if you want to get rid of someone because they’re “inconvenient,” you can do it “legally.” Euthanasia and abortion, you see, are two sides of the same evil coin. In order for society to justify killing an innocent person, we must first view them as being “sub-human.”

Unborn babies, for instance, are not “persons” in the eyes of the law, ever since *Roe v. Wade*. Therefore, if you don’t *want* the baby, you can kill it.

And thanks to the euthanasia movement, disabled patients such as Terri are deemed “unfit to live” and given “death with dignity.”

But all the compassionate rhetoric in the world can’t disguise one simple fact: Deliberately ending the life of an innocent human being who could easily live with ordinary care is murder, plain and simple.

Moral theologians define euthanasia as, “*An action or an omission which, of itself or by intention, causes the death of handicapped, sick, or dying persons – sometimes with an attempt to justify the act as a means of eliminating suffering.*”

The experts also state categorically that euthanasia violates the fifth commandment of the law of God, saying, “*The error of judgment into which one can fall in good faith does not change the nature of this murderous act, which must always be forbidden and excluded.*”

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Many Americans don't realize that Terri is NOT being kept alive against her will.

She is NOT being kept alive by "extraordinary means."

And she is NOT in a "persistent vegetative state."

She's simply disabled, and needs *proper care* just like any other severely disabled person.

That's why fourteen disability-rights organizations have filed "friend-of-the court" briefs to keep Terri alive. They know what this case means for other disabled persons.

Board-certified neurologist **Dr. Jacob Green** of Jacksonville, Florida, who examined Terri, said unequivocally: "*She is not in a vegetative state.*" When asked if it would be ethical to remove her feeding tube, he said, "*I'd call it murder. They're taking away any chance.*"

WHY?

As you can undoubtedly see, this case really isn't about the so-called "right-to-die," as the news media calls it. It's about Michael Schiavo attempting to kill his wife – our beloved daughter – and collect a lot of money that was *supposed* to go toward her therapy and rehabilitation. ("*The love of money is the root of all evil. – 1 Tim. 6:10*")

As far as my family is concerned, we're fighting for Terri's life because we love her very much. We don't want her to be put to death. We don't want her to suffer at the cruel hands of Michael Schiavo any longer. We want to help her get the rehabilitation and therapy she needs so badly. We want her to be happy and cared for by the people who love her.

Michael, on the other hand, wants her dead.

So does the **ACLU, AARP, the Hemlock Society**, and many other pro-death groups. They realize that if they lose this case, it will set the euthanasia movement back *decades*.

Pro-lifers and Christians of all kinds from all over the country and around the world are coming to Terri's defense because, first of all, they can't bear the thought of an innocent woman being murdered by the most painful death of all: **starvation and dehydration**.

And secondly, this fight *is* about whether or not we will allow the "culture of death" to completely take over our nation. If we lose this case, the floodgates will be wide open.

It's also about keeping *morality* in medicine. Because doctors are supposed to *heal*, not kill.

It's about teaching *our children* to have respect for life at all stages – from conception to *natural* death.

And it's about whether or not our country will follow God's laws – **or be drenched in "blood-guilt"** from all the innocent people we permit to be murdered with our full knowledge and consent.

A society is judged by how it treats its weakest members. The future of *our* society is at stake here. Will we, as the human family, have the readiness to care ... or the willingness to kill?

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No one has the right to make a judgment as to whose quality of life is better than another person's. There's no such thing as a worthless life. Certainly not my daughter's.

What Must We Do? And How Can YOU Help?

There is so much we need to do if we're going to keep Michael Schiavo, the courts, and the euthanasia fanatics from killing our daughter.

- First of all, we need to prove in court that Terri is NOT (and never has been) in a persistent vegetative state. Florida law defines PVS as "a permanent and irreversible state of unconsciousness in which there is an absence of voluntary or cognitive behavior of any kind and an inability to interact purposefully with one's environment."
- We have the evidence. We just need to get the courts to listen. And right now, they're biased against us. **Judge George Greer** of the Florida Sixth Judicial Circuit Court has already pre-judged the case and spoken to the news media about how he plans to rule. This is grounds for his dismissal in the case, and we need to pursue this so that we can get a fair trial.

Incidentally, at Michael Schiavo's request, Judge Greer issued an order to prevent us from videotaping Terri. After all, Michael doesn't want the public to see that Terri is not in PVS. **But we did it anyway.** And when you watch the video, you can see with your own eyes that Terri responds when my wife enters the room. Her eyes light up and she attempts to sit upright in her bed.

She even tries to say the word "**Mom.**" True PVS patients *cannot* do that!

- **We also need to have Michael permanently removed as Terri's legal guardian. This, too, takes a great deal of legal work – with all the costs associated with such a battle.**
- We're constantly in court trying to *prevent* Michael from getting permission to have Terri's food and water withdrawn – because it's *never* permissible to remove food and water to *cause* death, not even by state law.
- Michael recently filed a lawsuit to overturn "Terri's Law" as passed by the Florida State Legislature. Now we have to fight *that* lawsuit, too.
- **We even have to fight to guarantee Terri's right to the Catholic Sacrament of the Sick. Michael refused to allow her to receive Communion, because it would clearly indicate that she *can* swallow and take food by mouth.**

Unfortunately, each and every one of these legal battles requires money. The fearless, dedicated attorneys with the Life Legal Defense Foundation – led by **Patricia Anderson** – have worked night and day on Terri's behalf ever since my wife and I contacted Life Legal almost three years ago.

Pat is paid directly by Life Legal. And Life Legal gets *its* money from thousands of small but sacrificial donations from people who *care*...

...People Like You

And so, on behalf of the Life Legal Defense Foundation – and really, on behalf of Terri – I must now ask for your help – financially as well as spiritually.

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You Can Truly Prevent a *Horrible* Death

Michael Schiavo says he wants Terri to die in order to “end her suffering.” Come on. She will die by **dehydration**, which is one of the worst forms of death imaginable. And because Terri is not in PVS, she *will* feel the excruciating pain as she dies.

According to medical pathology, she will go from thirst to extreme thirst. She is likely to cry and moan until she is so dehydrated, she won't have tears and her mouth will be too dry and cracked to make sounds. She may have nose bleeds as the mucous dries out.

She will probably experience nausea, vomiting, and cramps as her intestines and stomach lining dehydrate. She will have dizziness, as well as cramping in the arms and legs as her electrolytes get out of balance. Eventually, it will all be too much for her body to handle, and she will die.

THIS IS MY DAUGHTER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!!!

If you're having a hard time reading this, imagine how hard it is for my family to live with. And imagine how hard it will be for Terri to *die* from.

But she doesn't have to die. With *your prayers* and *financial support*, I believe we can win this battle and save Terri's life. Without them, she's dead.

That's why we urgently need your help *immediately*.

Think about it: Your donation to help save Terri's life will be the greatest gift you could ever give.

Won't you send your largest possible gift today?

Thank you, and God bless.



On behalf of my daughter,

Bob Schindler
Bob Schindler

P.S. Nearly every major Christian and pro-life leader has come to Terri's defense. I don't have room to print all the statements urging you to give to the Life Legal Defense Foundation. But they all echo this plea from **Troy Newman of Operation Rescue West**: “*If you've ever wanted to give to a good cause, this is the one to give to. There is nothing greater you could do than helping to save this innocent woman's life.*”

Jesus said, “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, he will certainly not lose his reward” – *Matthew 10:42*.

Jesus also teaches that we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Please show your love for your neighbor, Terri Schiavo, by sending your life-saving contribution *today*.



URGENT Reply Memo

YES, Mr. Schindler! You can count on my support to help you save Terri's life!

I think it's horrible what Michael Schiavo is doing to Terri. Therefore, I'm sending the largest contribution I can make at this time to the **Life Legal Defense Foundation** so that their attorneys can continue to fight for Terri in court. I promise to pray for Terri and your family. May God give you His strength and grace during this painful trial. My tax-deductible gift is enclosed in the amount of...

\$5,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$200 \$100** \$50 \$35* \$25
Other \$ _____

Please bill my: MC VISA

Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

(Optional: in case we have questions or need to contact you with updates)

- * I have contributed **\$35** or more. Please send me a copy of Wesley Smith's exposé of the euthanasia movement, *The Culture of Death*.
- ** I'm giving **\$100 or more**. In addition to the book, **please also send me a copy of the video tape that proves Terri is not PVS.**
- I simply can't donate at this time. But please send me the video of Terri, and I promise to show it – and this letter – to my friends.
- I do not want any of the special gifts. Please use all of my donation to help save Terri's life. Thank you!**

Please make your check payable to "Life Legal" and send it *today* to:
The Life Legal Defense Foundation P.O. Box 2105, Napa, CA 94558