

Colombia

[Excerpted from: [Carter v. Canada \(Attorney General\), 2012 BCSC 886 \(CanLII\)](#)]

[619] As a result of a May 1997 decision of Colombia's Constitutional Court (Sentencia C-239/97), assisted death is permitted so long as it is performed by a medical professional with the consent of a patient who is experiencing intense suffering as a consequence of a terminal illness. Mercy killing remains an offence if these conditions are not met. The penalty for mercy killing is considerably lower than that of other homicides.

[620] The Constitutional Court in its decision urged Congress to enact legislation to regulate assisted death in line with the constitutional principles developed in its decision and provided recommendations to that end. This has yet to happen. In 2006, a bill to this effect was introduced but subsequently withdrawn when it became clear that it would be rejected.