



## 6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

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### Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at [ethics@providence.org](mailto:ethics@providence.org) with any questions.

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Proposed title of paper: Sallekhana: the Ethicality and Legality of Religious Suicide in the Jain Religious Community and the Ramifications for Clinical Ethics Consults

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

This article examines Sallekhana, the Jain religious ritual of fasting to death, from the American and Indian legal and ethical perspectives. Two cases are presented, the first involving a woman in her twenties who ritually starved herself to death to escape the torment of a voice in her head and the second case involving a woman in her sixties diagnosed with terminal cancer of the brain and liver who chose to starve to death rather than accept palliative care. Both cases of Sallekhana are analyzed with attention paid to the Jain theological rationale behind the practice and the social circumstances that predicate this vow of starvation. I argue that within Jain communities the moral presumption should be that Sallekhana is a valid religious ritual of dying and therefore should be legally protected, if and only if, it is freely chosen by an informed person free from coercion.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

2008 ~ "Sallekhana: the ethicality and legality of religious suicide by starvation in the Jain religious community." International Journal of Medicine and Law, Volume 27, Issue 4: pages 913-924.

2007 ~ "Sallekhana: Consideraciones Eticas Y Juridicas Sobre El Suicidio Por Inanicion en la Comunidad Religiosa Jainita." Anales de Derecho - Universidad de Murcia, Numero 25: pages 415-428.

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes     No