

Gotowa lekcja

Cryogenically frozen girl



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Girl with terminal cancer wins right to be cryogenically frozen

A **terminally** ill 14-year-old girl who wanted her body to be frozen in the hope that she could be brought back to life won a historic legal fight **shortly** before dying.

Her divorced parents had been arguing whether her **remains** should be taken to a specialist facility in the United States and **preserved**. The girl, who lived in the London area with her mother and had a rare form of cancer, had taken legal action. She had asked a High Court judge to rule that her mother – who supported her wish to be cryogenically preserved – should be the only person allowed to make decisions about the **disposal** of her body. The judge said the teenager had **carried out** internet research into cryonics during the last months of her life but her father had been **reluctant** to approve the plan. He had been concerned about consequences of his daughter being cryogenically preserved, and had been **concerned** about the costs involved. “Even if the treatment is successful and she is brought back to life in, let’s say, 200 years, she may not find any relative and she might not remember things,” the girl's father said.

Eventually High Court Judge agreed to **fulfil her wish**.

The girl died peacefully knowing that her remains would be frozen.

Activity 1: Translate the words in bold.

Activity 2: Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. Why did the girl want her body to be frozen?
2. Why was it a legal problem for her?
3. Did she manage to fulfil her wish?

Activity 3: Discuss the following questions:

1. What do you think about the girl's decision?
2. Would you like your body to be frozen so that you could be brought to life in the future?
3. Why are so many people afraid of death?

Activity 4: Watch a part of the **video** (0.00 - 1.00) about the girl and fill in the gaps. 



I'm only 14 years old and I don't want to die but I know that I am going to die.

The words of a girl asking a judge to (1) her dying wish to have her body cryogenically frozen.

I think that being quite preserved gives me the chance to be cured and woken up even in hundreds of years' time. I don't want to be buried underground. I want to live and live longer and I think in the future they may find a cure for my cancer and wake me up. I want to have this chance. This is my wish.

She (2) a historic legal battle and her lawyer says it gave her great solace in her final days.

This case was not about the rights and wrongs of cryopreservation. It was not about that. It was about respecting the wishes of a bright and intelligent and (3) fourteen-year-old. She knew she was going to die and knowing that her wish to be cryopreserved was going to be followed gave her a great (4)

Activity 5: Fill in the gaps with a correct word

grant carry out reluctant concerned fulfil disposal

1. The countries must ... more checks in these areas.
2. My father is very ... about my future.
3. The waste ... won't happen until next week.
4. At the age of 45, she finally ... her ambition to run a marathon.
5. Doris seemed ... to join the discussion.
6. They ... her an entry visa.

Activity 6: Discuss the following questions:

1. How important is science in our lives?
2. Would you donate your body to science after you die?
3. Do you enjoy visiting science museums?
4. What has been the most important scientific discovery ever?
5. What does it mean: *it's not rocket science* ?