

On October 24, 1993, Laura Latimer took three of her four children to church before 11:00am. Her husband, Robert, stayed behind with their 12 year old daughter Tracy. At around 1:30pm, Laura came home and went to Tracy's room to wake her up from her nap - it was lunch time. When she went to Tracy's bed, Laura found Tracy dead. Robert called the RCMP and told police that his wife had found Tracy dead - she had died in her sleep.

When the coroner arrived at the Latimer residence, he found the whole family sitting around Tracy's bed. The coroner asked the family to leave the room so he could examine Tracy's body. When the coroner talked with Robert (since he was the one who was with her before she passed), Robert told the coroner that Tracy had been in pain, so he put her in bed at around 12:30pm.

After examining her body, the coroner decided to order an autopsy. He later told the pathologist (who he ordered the autopsy from): "I have serious concerns with this incident and I can not rule out a mercy-type killing." When told that Tracy would need an autopsy, Robert said he wanted to have Tracy cremated.

Tracy Latimer

Tracy Latimer was born on November 23, 1980 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. During her birth, the hospital's fetal monitor was not working. Tracy's pulse was low, her heart stopped beating and she stopped breathing. Tracy was revived, but she suffered severe brain damage due to the oxygen deprivation. Within 24 hours of her birth, Tracy was having seizures and she was put into a medically induced coma. By four months old, Tracy was having seizures quite often and had to be medicated. The older she got, the more obvious it was that Tracy was handicapped.

Tracy was very close to her family. She had three younger siblings. She loved when her parents rocked her gently, and spent time with her. Tracy loved going to the circus, playing music, going to the pool, and watching hockey (sooo Canadian lol). Starting at age four, Tracy went to "regular" school and even rode the school bus.

At 12 years old, Tracy weighed less than 18 kilograms, or 40 pounds. She had the mental capacity of a four year old. She had "extreme" cerebral palsy - which according to Harvard Health is the catchall name that is given to a large group of disorders that affect muscles and movement. Tracy was also quadriplegic - which is the paralysis of limbs. She also had scoliosis which is the abnormal lateral, or sideways, curvature of the spine. Tracy could only communicate through facial expressions, laughing, and crying. She was "largely immobile", bedridden, and physically incapable of taking care of herself.

The Latimer's kept Tracy at home, and provided her with constant care. The only time she went to live in a group home was in 1993 from July to the beginning of October. In July of 1993, Tracy's mother, Laura, was in her 7th month of pregnancy with her fourth child. Laura was worried about lifting Tracy, and did not want to suffer another miscarriage (she had had one two years prior). Once the baby was born, Tracy was brought back home. Laura described Tracy as changing their lives and the lives of her children for the better. She also said "It was an honor to have known her".

Tracy constantly wore diapers, and was spoon fed. Tracy could not consume enough nutrients, and was subsequently underweight. The doctors told the Latimer's that Tracy could have a feeding tube inserted into her stomach - it would help with weight gain and administering medication. But they opted out - they found the procedure to be too intrusive, and it "represented the first step on a path to preserving Tracy's life artificially".

Tracy was in constant pain, and she could not take anything stronger than regular over the counter pain medication, due to negative drug interactions. She had up to six seizures per day. Tracy's lungs were constricted, and she often had bronchitis. Her stomach was also constricted,