



Newsletter, August 2019

Dear members of the Association Lifecircle,

I promised to inform you all about the prosecution that was filed against me.

As I had informed at the General Assembly, I was accused by the public prosecutor's office BL of deliberate killing and violation of the Therapeutic Products Act. The course of the court proceedings was a great burden for me, but also an experience of a very special kind, which I do not wish upon anyone.

Our member Ms M. died in mid-June 2016 and since then the lawsuit has been dragging on through the BL public prosecutor's office. If you have to carry an enormous load for three years as I did, it cannot pass by without a trace. The preparation time and the procedure days in particular, had a significant impact on my health. I suffer from various autoimmune diseases, which are known to be caused or aggravated by stress. The most visible of these is increasing alopecia, stress-related hair loss. This is not painful, some would say, but for a woman it is an enormous additional burden. Since I don't want to disguise myself at the moment, with a wig, a headscarf or a headband, I ask for understanding that my appearance slightly changed. I like to be the way nature made me, "unvarnished".

On 9.7.19 the verdict was pronounced by the President of the Court. I was acquitted of the allegations of willful or negligent killing, since the deceased had, in the opinion of the court, been able to judge and had acted in a self-determined manner.

Conversely, the court accused me of violating the provisions of the Therapeutic Products Act and the Cantonal Health Act. I was sentenced to a conditional prison sentence of 15 months, a fine of CHF 20,000 and the costs of the proceedings of CHF 30,000. But the judgment is not yet final.

My lawyer Moritz Gall and I will take this part to the cantonal court, which is why we (as well as the public prosecutor's office) requested the written explanation of the verdict. This and the subsequent statement of reasons for the appeal will take some time, which is why an indication of the time horizon is not yet possible today. But I will keep our members informed.

Since the court proceedings and even before, there has been an incredible sign of solidarity from members and non-members towards our association and especially towards me. This gives me the strength to continue to advocate the right to self-determination even to the end of my days, despite the legal proceedings. Especially now the support is so great that many people, even those who I do not know, have even offered to collect money to pay my fines. I have also personally received from known and unknown people who want to support me and from my patients, bouquets of flowers, chocolates and countless letters and emails of encouragement. I am asked by hundreds of people not to give up and continue to stand up for their right to die as they choose. At this point I would like to thank all the people for their support, because positive thoughts give strength. Unfortunately, I cannot answer every letter and every email personally, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind words and thoughts!



The Eternal Spirit Foundation continues to work with the same quality and reliability as before. Many of my patients were made to feel insecure by misinformation from the press. Some journalists testified that I was no longer allowed to dispense medication, and even that I was no longer allowed to practice as a doctor. This information is incorrect, and I will continue to work as a general practitioner in my practice in Biel-Benken, as well as with assisted dying for lifecircle/Eternal Spirit.

In our Association Lifecircle, however, there is definitely a change: we are literally overwhelmed by requests for help, especially from foreigners. As our capacity is limited, we introduced a recruitment stop for new members from abroad in May. People from abroad very often only become members when death has already "knocked on the door", i.e. when they already have a life expectancy of less than 3 months. Since it is extremely costly to accompany foreigners, we had to admit to ourselves that we would overburden ourselves if we did not at least make a temporary admission stop and forward foreigners to Dignitas and Ex International. The recruitment stop will be lifted when we feel we have more capacity again.

I wish all our members a wonderful summer and as little health problems as possible.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Dr. med. Erika Preisig  
General practitioner and  
President of the association lifecircle  
[www.lifecircle.ch](http://www.lifecircle.ch)

'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.' *Margaret Mead*