

MORAL DILEMMA NUMBERTHREE

A young lady in the hospital and is near death. She is in her early twenties, and both of her kidneys have failed. She needs an immediate transplant to survive. The doctors were just about to give up when a person with a perfect tissue match died in an accident. The man who had just died had not given permission to have his organs harvested and donated; none of his family is present.

1. Should the doctors transplant the dead man's kidneys?
 - Why or why not?
2. The doctor knows that it is illegal to transplant the kidney.
 - Should this influence his/her decision?
3. The doctor decides to ask the dead man's wife for permission.
 - What should she do?
4. What if the wife knows the man was opposed to organ transplants, and did not even want an autopsy performed on his body.
5. What if the doctor feels that he would be guilty of killing if s/he allowed the girl to die?