

The Archie Battersbee Case - Lessons in Trust, Dignity and Autonomy in End of Life Care

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The Archie Battersbee case in the UK brought to the forefront ethical complexities in end of life care the world over. It is especially relevant in the Indian context. This webinar will delve into the legal, medical, ethical and financial dimensions of end of life care (EoLC), especially where trust between the family and healthcare professionals has broken down.

Background - On 7th April 2022, 12-year-old Archie Battersbee's mother found him unconscious at home with a ligature around his neck. The clinical team at Barts Health NHS Trust gave him round-the clock intensive care. However, once the full extent of his devastating brain injuries became clear the clinical team concluded that prolonging treatment was no longer in Archie's best interests. Archie's parents believed he could recover, and wanted intensive care to continue. They took Barts to court. After multiple appeals, the legal dispute ended with the Court stating that it could not authorise or declare lawful the continuation of his present treatment. Archie's life support was withdrawn on 6th August 2022 and soon after he was pronounced dead.



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