

Ethical and Legal Implications of Human Cloning

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Abstract

In February 1997, the media informed the entire world of the birth of the cloned Dolly the Sheep, which sparked a huge international debate encompassing the ethical, social, cultural and legal spheres. The cloning debates are defined as events that constitute milestones in the history of mankind. Those debates have exceeded the boundaries between the church and secular world, scientists and philosophers, and even those between politicians, ordinary people or prominent public figures, such as writers and actors, etc., thus engaging the entire society. Albania has also been involved in this vortex of significantly essential debate. What will happen further on? After successful animal cloning, will it be the turn of humans to be cloned? Should human cloning be absolutely prohibited? Or should scientists be allowed to work in order to perform medical services to the benefit of humanity? This paper shall deal with the ethical, religious and legal frameworks of human cloning, as well as the approach adopted by the legislation of Albania with regard to this global phenomenon.

Keywords: assisted reproduction, human cloning, reproductive cloning, therapeutic cloning, ethical contrast, legal regulation.

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