



## **Family calls for suicide site ban**

**The family of a man who killed himself after looking at suicide websites has called for them to be banned.**

Glenn Hughes, 39, was being treated for depression after the end of a 15-year relationship. His family said he found suicide information on the web.

Mr Hughes, from Cefn Glas, near Bridgend, south Wales, asphyxiated himself with a plastic bag.

Coroner Philip Walters, recording a suicide verdict, said while the sites may be undesirable, they were legal.

The issue of suicide websites was not raised during the inquest, but Mr Walters told the court he wanted to comment on them because there had been so much publicity surrounding this case.

Mr Hughes' family said they believed he would still be alive if he had not seen the website.

He was found in his home with his head in a plastic bag, which was attached to a helium bottle.

But the inquest heard he had asphyxiated himself before he had a chance to turn on the gas.

Outside the court, Tyrone Hughes said his brother had been surfing suicide sites and had obtained a videotape from the net which demonstrated the method he chose to kill himself.

Mr Hughes said: "It showed very graphically how to commit suicide in the method used by my brother.

"If my brother hadn't gone onto the internet I think that he wouldn't have been so successful in what he tried to do.

"We spoke the day before and he seemed fine so I think... if he hadn't have had that information or shown practically how to do what he did then he might have got through this."

The dead man's sister, Julie Hughes, said the video her brother had bought - which was often used by people who want to end their lives because of serious illness - had "left no room for error".

### **'Impossible' ban**

She added: "I'm not against people with terminal illnesses having help, but there should be a form of legislation brought in."



Glenn Hughes was depressed at the end of a relationship

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Tyrone Hughes

Samaritans' Cardiff director Paul Stockton said his organisation had had meetings with internet providers and search engine managers about suicide websites.

"It would be impossible to ban the use of the word 'suicide' in the search engines because then you wouldn't be able to get to organisations like Samaritans via the search engines," he said.

"Last year we had over a million contacts by e-mail - predominantly young people who were contemplating suicide and (who) we supported throughout that crisis."

