

Overview of the Oregon Death with Dignity Act for Patients

Eligibility:

- Must be an adult Oregon state resident.
- Diagnosed as terminally ill with a disease or condition that will cause death within six (6) months by a treating physician.
- Capable of making an informed decision and have intact judgment.
- Able to self-administer the prescribed dose of life-ending medication.

Patient Procedures for Requesting Life-Ending Medication:

1. Two (2) Oregon licensed physicians must assist you in the process. One physician determines your eligibility and prescribes the medication and is called the Attending or Prescribing Physician. The other physician gives a concurring opinion and is called the Consulting Physician. Ask your primary care physician and specialists if they are willing to be the Prescribing or Consulting Physician with your choice to use Oregon's Aid-in-Dying law (Death with Dignity). Do not ask office personnel. Compassion & Choices of Oregon will assist your physicians with the process.
2. No one but you may make the first oral request to any of your current physicians-not office staff- for the written prescription and ask that the request be documented in your medical chart.
3. If you are unable to get straight answers from your physicians, call us for assistance.
4. After you have seen both the Prescribing and Consulting Physicians, complete a "[Request for Medication](#)" form. Read the information at the bottom of the form for detailed instructions. When the form is completed, give it to your Prescribing Physician.
5. Make a second oral request to the Prescribing Physician, no sooner than 15 days after the first oral request.
6. Obtain the prescribed medication(s) from your physician or a pharmacy recommended by Compassion & Choices of Oregon. You or someone you designate may pick up the medication.
7. Consider the timing and location for the procedure, and who you want with you when you die. If you are a client of Compassion & Choices of Oregon, we strongly recommend that our client support volunteers are present with you.

Recommendations to Patients:

- When you have a life expectancy of six months or less, request a referral to hospice from your physician.
- Complete your Will, Advance Directive that includes Health Care Instructions and Appointment of Healthcare Representative
- Talk to your family and loved ones about your decision.
- Ask your physician to complete a POLST form
- We recommend you keep your decision private and only share it with your inner circle of family and friends. And please do not reveal the identities of participating physicians and pharmacists.

If you are not already a client of Compassion & Choices of Oregon, call us for information and support for all your end-of-life choices.

For more information, call 503-525-1956, email contact@compassionoforegon.org or go to www.compassionoforegon.org