

Process Steps and Summary* – Colorado End-of-Life Options Act



Attending Physician

- Diagnoses terminal illness, prognosis of ≤6 months



Individual (18yrs or older)

- Makes voluntary oral request for medical aid-in-dying



Attending Physician

- Verifies residency, mental capacity, voluntary request, informed decision
- Counsels individual about:
 - Risks/results of drugs
 - May receive drugs but not ingest
 - May rescind request
 - Alternatives and/or treatment possibilities: comfort care, palliative care, hospice care, pain control
 - Recommend notifying kin
 - Have someone with you when ingest
 - Don't ingest in public place
 - Keep drugs in safe place; dispose of unused drugs properly
- Refers individual to Consulting Physician
- Refers individual to Mental Health Professional if concerned about mental capacity
- Documentation (see below)



Qualified Individual

- Makes written request per statute
 - 2 witnesses
 - NOT attending physician, POA, or MDPOA
 - 1 may be related, heir, owner/employee or healthcare facility where individual receiving care
- Makes second oral request at least 15 days after first request
- Visits Consulting Physician (and Mental Health Professional if referred)



Consulting Physician

- Examines individual and medical records
- Confirms terminal diagnosis, prognosis, mental capacity

- If concerned about mental capacity, refers to Mental Health Professional
- Submits documentation in writing to Attending Physician



Mental Health Professional, if needed

- Evaluates individual to assess mental capacity to make decisions
- Confirms in writing to Attending Physician

NOTE: IF ATTENDING OR CONSULTING PHYSICIAN OR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL FIND THAT THE INDIVIDUAL LACKS MENTAL CAPACITY, THE INDIVIDUAL WILL NOT RECEIVE AID-IN-DYING MEDICATIONS.



Attending Physician

- Confirms individual's mental capacity
- Issues prescription
- Dispenses drug(s) directly, if properly licensed, and file dispensing record with CDPHE
- With written consent of individual, delivers prescription either in person, by mail, or by authorized electronic method to pharmacist



Pharmacist

- Fills prescription
- Delivers drugs to either individual for whom drugs prescribed or to person "expressly designated"
- File dispensing record with CDPHE



Qualified Individual

- Self-administers drugs to bring about peaceful death
- Caregivers/Family/Companions call attending physician or hospice program (if enrolled) to report patient's death



Attending Physician or Hospice Medical Director

- Signs death certificate citing underlying illness as cause of death

Documentation required for the medical record:

- Dates of all oral requests
- A valid written request
- Diagnosis and prognosis, determination of mental capacity, voluntary request, informed decision
- Consulting physician's confirmation of diagnosis and prognosis, mental capacity, informed decision
- If applicable, written confirmation of mental capacity from licensed mental health professional
- Notation of notification of the right to rescind a request
- Notation by the attending physician that all requirements have been met; all steps taken; date of prescription of aid-in-dying medications

***THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL OR MEDICAL ADVICE.
CONSULT AN ATTORNEY OR QUALIFIED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL FOR ADVICE ON YOUR SITUATION.**

For details, see 25-48-101–123 Colorado Revised Statutes