



# End-of-Life Care Options in Delaware

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# Who We Are

Compassion & Choices is the leading nonprofit organization working to improve care, expand options and empower everyone to chart their end-of-life journey. For more than 30 years we have worked to change attitudes, practices and policies so that everyone can access the information and options they need to have more control and comfort at the end of life.

# End-of-Life Care Options

- Pursuing Life-Sustaining Treatment
- Refusing Treatment
- Discontinuing Treatment
- Hospice
- Palliative Care
- Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED)
- Medical Aid in Dying

# What is medical aid in dying?

Medical aid in dying is a medical practice in which a mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to live may request a prescription for medication which they can choose to self-ingest to peacefully end terminal suffering.

# Ron Silverio/Heather Block End-of-Life Options Act

The Ron Silverio/Heather Block End-of-Life Options Act authorizes the practice of medical aid in dying in Delaware.

The law went into effect on January 1, 2026.



# Who is eligible?

- Adult
- Terminally ill
- Prognosis of 6 months or less to live
- Mentally capable of making informed medical decisions
- Able to self-ingest
- Resident of Delaware



*A person is not eligible for aid in dying due to age or disability alone*

# Which Providers May Participate?

Eligibility criteria must be confirmed by two (2) healthcare providers:

- An *attending* provider and a *consulting* provider

A Delaware-licensed:

- Physician (MD or DO)
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)

# Request process

The patient must make three (3) requests to their attending healthcare provider (physician or APRN):

- Two oral requests, 15 days apart
- One written request

An attending provider may not write a prescription less than 48 hours after the written request, and the prescription must be sent directly to the compounding pharmacy.

# Safeguards and Protections

- Voluntary participation for all patients/healthcare providers
- Confirmation of decision-making capacity
- Legal protections for those following the law
- No impact on life insurance or wills
- All patients must self-administer medications

# Resources

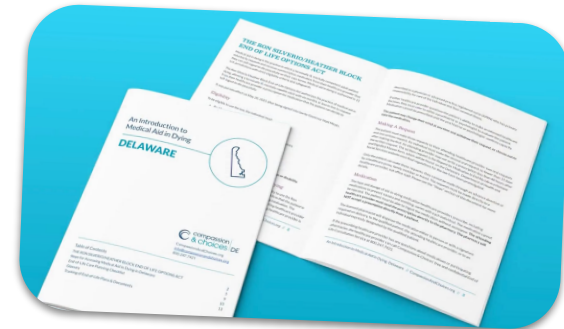
For more information and additional resources related to care at the end of life, visit [CompassionAndChoices.org](https://www.compassionandchoices.org).

The Compassion & Choices **Call Compassion** helpline is also available at 800-247-7421 to assist with guidance and information.

Find forms, videos and resources for patients and clinicians at: [CandC.org/Delaware](https://www.CandC.org/Delaware)

Keep up with us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/compassionandchoicesdelaware](https://www.facebook.com/compassionandchoicesdelaware)



# Questions?

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