

Hospice Policies Regarding the Washington State Death with Dignity Act

In accordance with SB 5179 (Laws of 2023), the purpose of this form is to provide the public with information about which Death with Dignity Act-related services are and are not generally available at each hospice agency.

Please contact the hospice agency directly if you have questions about services that are available.

Hospice name: WhidbeyHealth Hospice

Physical address: 101 Birch St

City: Coupeville

State: WA

Zip Code: 98239

Hospice contact: Claire Milnes

Contact phone #: 360-914-5635

Washington State Death with Dignity (DWD) Act

Pursuant to the DWD Act, RCW 70.245.190, individual providers, staff, and facilities may choose whether or not to participate in the DWD Act. "Participate" means to perform the duties of the attending (prescribing) qualified medical provider, the consulting qualified medical provider, or to take part in other activities as described below.

All hospice agencies provide symptom management and after-death support.

The items below describe the above-listed hospice agency's provision of specific DWD Act-related support.

Medical Provider Participation in DWD Act

- ☒ For any given patient, Hospice medical providers may participate as both Attending (prescribing) and Consulting providers.
- ☐ For any given patient, Hospice medical providers may participate as either Attending (prescribing) or Consulting provider, but not both.
- ☐ Hospice medical providers may participate as Consulting providers only.
- ☐ Hospice medical providers do not participate as either Attending (prescribing) or Consulting providers.

Hospice Staff/Volunteer Presence During Ingestion

- ☒ Hospice staff/volunteers may be present in the patient room at the time of ingestion.
- ☐ Hospice staff/volunteers may not be present in the patient room at the time of ingestion but may be present in the patient residence at time of ingestion.
- ☐ Hospice staff/volunteers may not be present in the patient residence at the time of ingestion.

Hospice Staff/Volunteer Presence Following Ingestion

- ☒ As above, Hospice staff/volunteers may be present during ingestion, and may also be present following ingestion.
- ☐ Hospice staff/volunteers may be present only after ingestion.
- ☐ Hospice staff/volunteers may be present only after the patient has died.

Hospice Staff/Volunteer Medication Transport

- ☐ Hospice staff/volunteers may transport DWD Act medications from the pharmacy to the patient's residence.
- ☒ Hospice staff/volunteers may not transport DWD Act medications from the pharmacy to the patient's residence.

Hospice Staff/Volunteer Witnessing of Written Request

- ☐ Hospice staff/volunteers may witness a patient's written request for medication that the patient may self-administer to end their life.
- ☐ Hospice staff/volunteers may not witness a patient's written request for medication that the patient may self-administer to end their life.

Hospice Staff/Volunteer Medication Preparation

- ☒ Hospice staff/volunteers may assist with medication preparation for a patient to self-administer.
- ☐ Hospice staff/volunteers may not assist with medication preparation.

Hospice Staff Placement of Rectal Catheter for Purpose of Administration of DWD Medications

- ☒ If necessary, Hospice staff may place a rectal catheter for the purpose of self-administration of DWD medications.
- ☐ Hospice staff may not place a rectal catheter for the purpose of self-administration of DWD medications.

☒ Please see next page for additional comments.

Signature: 

Signed by: Claire Milnes

Date: 5/14/25

Comments; limitations on services; other services continued:

WhidbeyHealth Hospice does not allow staff or volunteers to transport the life-ending medications. WhidbeyHealth Hospice has identified area pharmacies that will mail the medications to the patient, upon request.

Signature: *C. Milner*

Signed by: Claire Milnes

Date: 5/14/25

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.