



Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) Fact Sheet¹

Laws

States with law: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, Washington D.C. (Montana has a 2009 Supreme Court decision that permits MAiD but as yet hasn't codified that decision.)

Earliest Law – Oregon/1997

Most Recent Law – New Mexico/2021

Total # Requests – 8,490

Total # Deaths – 5,352

% of deaths compared to requests – 63%

These figures highlight that only a small number of people with terminal illness utilize medical aid in dying laws to die, and about 30 percent of people who do obtain the medication prescribed under these laws never take it.

To Qualify you must be:

- an adult resident of a state where such a law is in effect;
- capable of making and communicating your own healthcare decisions;
- diagnosed with a terminal illness that will lead to death within six months, as confirmed by qualified healthcare providers; and
- capable of self-administering and ingesting medications without assistance.

Each state's qualification process may vary.

Is Not the Same Thing as Assisted Suicide: Factually, legally and medically speaking, it is inaccurate to equate medical aid in dying with assisted suicide. This distinction is because a person who seeks medical aid in dying already has a terminal prognosis of six months or less to live. They are not choosing to die; a disease is taking their life. They are choosing not to prolong a difficult and painful dying process.

¹ Information taken from the Death with Dignity website (deathwithdignity.org) and from the Compassion and Choices website (compassionandchoices.org)