



### 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: **Franciscan Hospice and Palliative Care (Part of Virginia Mason Franciscan Health)**

Physical address: **2901 Bridgeport Way West**

City: **Univeristy Place**

State: **WA**

Zip Code: **98466**

Hospice contact: **Marilou Church**

Contact phone #: **253-534-7000**

#### 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: **Marilou Church**

Date: **2.19.25**

**Comments; limitations on services; other services continued:**

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health provides high quality health care to everyone in our care, recognizing each person's inherent dignity as a unique expression of life. We value informed consent and all clinicians are supported in disclosing all options with their patients, including interventions not available at our facilities in a non-directive manner with a safe transfer of care when requested. VMFH does not participate in the Washington State Death with Dignity Act at any of our facilities.


Virginia Mason Franciscan Health provides care to all patients across the lifespan. End of life care is provided to all patients, regardless of their participation under the act, and our clinicians seek to ensure patients are kept as free of pain as possible so that they may die comfortably and with dignity. Virginia Mason Franciscan Health honors patient's advance directives, including those that outline a preference to forgo life-sustaining treatments.

Extraordinary means to sustain life need not be utilized when death appears to be imminent and inevitable.

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health supports providers in all of the below:

- 1) Certify that a patient has a terminal disease and provide the patient information about the medical prognosis pursuant to documentation required under the DWD Act.
- 2) Give information about the DWD Act to a patient upon request, including information about what relevant resources are available and how to access them.
- 3) Document the encounter of when a patient's first written request for medication that the patient may self-administer to end their life in a human and dignified manner in the patient's medical record per the DWD Act.
- 4) Provide a safe transfer of a patient to another attending or consulting qualified medical provider.

Signature: 

Signed by: 

Date: 2/19/25

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](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).