

The Salvation Army

Policy for Social Service and Health Care Ministry Units on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

Date Created: January 2018

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent and compassionate approach, reflective of The Salvation Army's mission when communicating pre-admission information and inquiries related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)¹ and/or to responding to (a) person(s) in care within a Salvation Army facility who requests MAiD.

STANDARD

The Salvation Army is committed to the inherent dignity of every human being throughout the entire continuum of life. MAiD will not be provided at any Salvation Army Ministry Unit.

POLICY

As a faith-based organization, The Salvation Army will not perform MAiD. This policy applies in all Salvation Army facilities to all staff, officers, physicians, volunteers, students and any other persons acting on behalf of The Salvation Army.

Salvation Army care providers will sensitively and respectfully address a patient/resident's request for information about MAiD. The Salvation Army will permit the assessment process to take place in The Salvation Army facility to determine if the patient/resident meets the legislated eligibility requirements for MAiD. This process will follow all legislative guidelines as set forward by the government and local health authority.

The Salvation Army will continue to provide comprehensive care for the patient/resident during the assessment process and the period of reflection and consideration of MAiD. This will include the availability of emotional and spiritual support, through a chaplain and/or social worker.

¹ For further clarity and the purpose of this policy, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) is used to describe the administering by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner of a substance to a person, at their request, that causes their death; the prescribing or providing by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner of a substance to a person, at their request, so that they may self-administer the substance and in doing so cause their own death. This language is consistent with federal legislation, Bill C-14.

Patients/residents who meet the MAiD criteria and who wish to proceed with MAiD will be referred through their physician or the local health authority to an alternate health facility or private location that will accommodate their request.

The Salvation Army acknowledges and supports the right of Officers and staff to conscientiously object to the provision of MAiD. Objections based on conscience must be in accordance with any requirements outlined in law and/or professional regulatory standards, and may not result in the abandonment of patients/residents. If requested by the resident/patient, Officers and staff involved in the provision of spiritual and religious care may accompany the resident/patient to the facility/location that will accommodate the request for MAiD.