

From: Physician-Assisted Dying A Turning Point?

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Table. State Laws Authorizing Physician-Assisted Dying

	State, Year of Legislation				
	Oregon, 1997	Washington, 2009	Montana, 2009 ^a	Vermont, 2009	California, 2016
Patient request	2 Oral and 1 written request	2 Oral and 1 written request	Court found that the consent of a terminally ill, competent adult to lethal medication protects physicians from liability for homicide; bill has been put forward in the current legislative session to impose rules	2 Oral and 1 written request	2 Oral and 1 written request
Waiting period	15 d between patient's second oral request and prescription; 48 h between written request and prescription	15 d between patient's second oral request and prescription; 48 h between written request and prescription		15 d between patient's oral requests; 48 h must pass between patient's final oral request and written request	15 d between oral requests (statute doesn't specify a timeline for the written request)
Witnesses	2 Witnesses required; 1 witness must not be a relative, beneficiary, employee of patient's health care facility, or attending physician	2 Witnesses required; 1 witness cannot be a relative, beneficiary, attending physician, or employee at patient's health care facility		2 Individuals at least 18 y old and not "interested persons"	2 Individuals, 1 must not be relative, beneficiary, attending physician, or employee at patient's health care facility
Capacity	If either physician suspects psychiatric/psychological disorder or depression, patient must be referred for counseling; no prescription provided without confirmation that the patient does not have impaired judgment	If either physician suspects psychiatric/psychological disorder or depression, patient must be referred for counseling; no prescription provided without confirmation that the patient does not have impaired judgment		If either physician has doubt whether the patient's judgment is impaired, patient must be evaluated by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker; no prescription may be given until capacity is established	If the attending physician suspects a mental disorder, patient is referred to a mental health specialist; no prescription provided until the specialist clears the patient of impaired judgment due to mental disorder
Diagnosis	2 Physicians agree death likely within 6 mo	2 Physicians agree death likely within 6 mo		2 Physicians agree death within 6 mo	2 Physicians agree death within 6 mo
Opt-out	Physicians may refuse to participate	Physicians may refuse to participate		Physicians may refuse to participate	Physicians may refuse to participate

^a By court decision.

Table Title:

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