

Medical Aid in Dying in Oregon and Vermont for persons residing outside of the state:



What friends and family need to know

In 2023, both Oregon and Vermont passed laws removing the residency restrictions from their medical aid-in-dying laws. The Oregon and Vermont legislatures passed these laws in response to settlement agreements reached in *Gideonse v. Brown* (Oregon) and *Bluestein v. Scott* (Vermont), two lawsuits brought by Compassion & Choices challenging the states' residency restrictions.

As a result of these settlements and changes in law, medical practitioners in Oregon and Vermont may assist non-residents in obtaining medical aid-in-dying services without worrying about civil or criminal repercussions from medical authorities.

However, for terminally ill people,

their friends and their families, many questions likely remain.

The following information is intended for friends and family of an out-of-state individual seeking medical aid in dying in either Oregon or Vermont. The information is not intended for friends and family of an individual seeking medical aid in dying in any other authorized jurisdiction besides Oregon and Vermont.

Note: It is important to recognize the difficulties of travel while terminally ill and dying and the challenges of establishing a qualifying physician/patient relationship as a non-resident.

I would like to help someone travel to access medical aid in dying. What are my legal risks?

- A state's medical aid-in-dying law offers protection from criminal and civil liability for those who follow its procedures within the state boundaries. These protections may not be effective outside state boundaries.
- Whether you are at risk of civil and criminal liability for assisting a qualified individual to obtain medical aid in dying services depends on a variety of factors such as the laws of your state, the laws of the state from which the qualified individual is traveling, and the facts surrounding the assistance provided. For example, some states have criminal laws against assisting a suicide that may apply to you.
- Whether any specific action, or inaction, may put you at risk for civil or criminal liability will require specific legal analysis by an attorney licensed in your state.
- If you reside in a state where medical aid in dying has not been authorized (or has been specifically criminalized), we urge you to consult an attorney prior to taking any action, to determine whether you are at risk of criminal

or civil liability in your state. Compassion & Choices' legal team may also be able to assist. Please contact us [here](#).

I would like to help someone obtain medical aid in dying services in a state where they are not a resident. What are my legal risks?

- A state's medical aid-in-dying law offers protection from criminal and civil liability within state boundaries. These protections may not apply outside the state.
- Whether you are at risk of civil and criminal liability for assisting a qualified individual to obtain medical aid in dying services depends on a variety of factors such as the laws of your state, the laws of the state from which the qualified individual is traveling, and the facts surrounding the assistance provided.
- For example, it is possible that prosecutors in your state may attempt to apply the state's assisted suicide statute or other laws relating to causing another person's death to the practice of medical aid in dying.
- Whether any specific action—or inaction—may put you at risk for civil or criminal liability will require

specific legal analysis by an attorney licensed in your state.

- If you reside in a state where medical aid in dying is not authorized (or has been specifically criminalized) we urge you to consult with an attorney to determine whether you are at risk of criminal or civil liability in your state. Compassion & Choices' legal team may also be able to assist. Please contact us [here](#).
- If you reside in a state where medical aid in dying is authorized and still wish to travel to a state without a residency restriction to access medical aid in dying, there is likely less risk of civil and criminal liability, but there still may be some associated risk.
- We recommend that you consult with an attorney to determine whether you or anyone connected to you is at risk of criminal or civil liability in your state. Compassion & Choices' legal team may also be able to assist. Please contact us [here](#).

Additional Resources

- [Understanding Medical Aid in Dying](#)