

American Clinicians Academy on Medical Aid in Dying

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Medical Aid in Dying Ethics Consultation Service

The mission of the Ethics Consultation Service of the American Clinicians Academy on Medical Aid in Dying is to provide support for clinicians involved in the practice of medical aid in dying. This support is primarily directed at addressing clinical ethics questions raised by clinicians involved with patients considering medical aid in dying, as well as ethics questions concerning medical aid in dying that may arise within hospice and palliative care agencies, healthcare organizations, or grief and bereavement services. The Ethics Consultation Service may also take requests from other ethics committees seeking help from our specialized ethics service for aid-in-dying dilemmas.

Our support provides:

- A consistent and knowledgeable resource for clinicians facing ethical dilemmas in providing care to patients considering medical aid in dying.
- A forum in which clinicians and members of the Consultation Service can explore a clinical dilemma and offer options and recommendations.
- Discussions of challenges regarding research, data collection and analysis, and additional investigations, by operating within an ethical framework.

The Ethics Consultation Service neither mediates nor decides clinical ethics case dilemmas. Rather, we explore and amplify the resources, facts, and ethical foundations of the clinical circumstances brought to us by clinicians caring for patients considering medical aid in dying or by other providers with dilemmas relevant to the practice of medical aid in dying. Our members are professionally qualified and designated health care ethics consultants from a variety of academic and health care backgrounds across the country. Although we are knowledgeable about the practice of medical aid in dying and the governing statutes, our mission is to render non-biased, non-binding opinions in response to the questions raised. Referring clinicians, in partnership with the patients and families, continue to make all clinical decisions.

Confidentiality and privacy will be fully maintained for the patient, family, and all caregivers. The clinician requesting the consultation can also request anonymity once they have sent identifying information to the Consultation Service Chair, who will then establish a confidentiality protocol for that clinician's consultation request.

The Ethics Consultation Service or its individual members may at times disseminate and/or publish analyses and opinion statements of ethical issues regarding the clinical aspects of medical aid in dying. It will be within the function of the Ethics Consultation Service to respond to common ethical challenges that arise in this new field of medicine.

Submitted by:

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