



# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (MAiD) SPIRITUAL HEALTH INQUIRY FORM

(please note: Use of this form is optional)



## A GUIDE FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS' CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE ASKING FOR MAiD

Spirituality is the beliefs, values, behaviors, experiences, and relationships related to life's meaning and purpose. It can include religion, beliefs about existence, and cultural factors.

Spiritual distress or existential suffering can happen when patients experience a lack of meaning or purpose in life and struggle to find a sense of self. It's important to address existential suffering as it is often associated with hopelessness, increased anxiety and depression, reduced quality of life, and a desire to hasten death.

(Bates, Alan, *Addressing existential suffering*, BC Medical Journal, vol. 58, no. 5, June 2016)

As members of the healthcare team, Spiritual Health Professionals "provide comprehensive spiritual care and emotional support to patients, families and health care staff in a manner that is appropriate to belief system and cultural diversity."

(BC Ministry of Health, *Spiritual Health Framework*, 2012)

The following information and questions are meant to help patients and healthcare providers understand what spiritual or emotional needs patients might have related to medical assistance in dying (MAiD).

Completion of this questionnaire is voluntary and will not interfere with a patient receiving MAiD.

### Questions for people considering Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

Serious medical conditions, terminal illness, and anticipated death can raise many questions and concerns of a spiritual nature. People in such circumstances sometimes struggle with:

#### Questions about

- Life's meaning
- Connection to self/others/the sacred
- Peace and forgiveness
- The afterlife
- Community
- Emotional self-control

#### Concerns about

- Losing autonomy
- Losing function
- Changed identity
- Losing faith
- Changed purpose
- Losing dignity

#### Feelings of

- Fear of death, death process, dying
- Fear of pain
- Acute anxiety
- Grief / mourning
- Guilt / shame
- Isolation

None      Low      Med      High

To what degree have you had questions, concerns, or feelings like those above? ( Check off which, if any, you have had)

1      2      3      4

To what degree do you feel you have adequate spiritual and emotional support available for you at this time?

1      2      3      4

If there are any issues you would like to resolve before your death, would you like some help and support to work through them?

Yes      No

*In answering this question, please consider the following:*

*Comments:*

- *Is anything unresolved in your relationships?*
- *Is there anything which requires "closure"?*
- *Is there a need for reconciliation or forgiveness?*

Would you like to speak with a healthcare professional about how we can help support your spiritual and emotional needs?

Yes      No

Notes/Comments:

Print Shop# 263418