

Advance Care Planning - End of Life Decisions – Life after Caregiving

Last updated September 2022

Honoring Choices Minnesota

Honoring Choices Minnesota is focused on helping every adult Minnesotan understand what Advance Care Planning is, and working with health care providers to make sure they offer assistance to all patients, and will honor your choices.

[Honoring Choices](#)

Compassion & Choices – Dementia Tools

The [Dementia Values & Priorities Tool](#) helps patients consider and identify their personal values and care wishes. They will be able to provide clear cut instructions to their loved ones, outlining their intentions through a personalized care plan.

A Compassion & Choices exclusive, the Dementia Provision adds language to an advance directive advising physicians and family of your wishes should you be unable to direct your care due to Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia.

[Download and print your own Dementia Provision.](#)

Ellen Goodman Talks about End of Life and Dementia

Ellen Goodman and her mother spoke about everything except one thing: how her mother wanted to live at the end of her life. Watch this moving video where Ellen shares her personal experience of caring for her mom who had dementia.

“I didn’t know how important it was to have these conversations early...”

[Conversation Project](#)

Conversation Starter Kits for Healthcare Directives

Conversation Starter Kit for Families and Loved Ones of People with Alzheimer's Disease or Other Forms of Dementia

[Dementia Family Starter Kit](#)

Your Conversation Starter Kit

[Conversation Starter Kit](#)

Who Will Speak for You? How to choose and be a Health Care Proxy

[Health Care Proxy](#)

Go Wish cards

Go Wish cards is a simple tool to help anyone articulate their end-of-life wishes enabling easy, trusting, "what do I want" discussions at any stage of life. Working together, we help you overcome this tough, but most necessary conversation -- making it simple for you to make sure that your families, professionals and caretakers honor your wishes and help you embrace the life you want.

Play the [Go Wish On-line Interactive Version](#) for FREE

The Role of Palliative Care in a COVID-19 Pandemic

Palliative Care Strengths Such as Communication, Advance Care Planning, and Symptom Management, Needed Now More Than Ever

Blog post by the Executive Director of the California State University Shiley Institute for Palliative Care.

[Palliative Care and COVID-19](#)

POLST (Physician/Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment)

Minnesota POLST and COVID 19

Basic discussion about the value of a POLST during the pandemic.

[MN POLST and COVID-19](#)

POLST Basics - An Overview of Important Treatment Decisions

This video is an overview of the Indiana POLST form, which is very similar in content to the Minnesota POLST form. Patients and families are encouraged to watch this video to understand the basics of the POLST form. The video is designed for people

with advanced illness or frailty and their family members. It provides an overview of important treatment decisions in order to prepare a patient for a for POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) discussion with his or her medical provider.

[POLST Basics](#)

POLST (Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment)

Link to Minnesota POLST form

[MN POLST Form](#)

POLST Minnesota: Information for Patients and Family Members

[MN POLST Info for Patients and Families](#)

POLST Fundamentals

Overview and links to information about the POLST and its use.

[National POLST program overview and links](#)

POLST Minnesota: Frequently Asked Questions

[MN POLST Frequently Asked Questions](#)

What is an End-of-Life Doula?

Also known as a death doula or death midwife, end-of-life doulas provide care and support to those transitioning through the dying process. For the dying patient, they may provide emotional, physical, and spiritual support and help address the patient's wants and needs during the final days of life. They may also assist with logistical tasks, not limited to creating a death plan, planning a memorial service, and organizing a legacy project for future generations. An end-of-life doula may also offer support for family members during their loved one's dying process and offer grief support afterwards.

[End with Care](#)

Minnesota Death Collaborative

The Minnesota Death Collaborative is your resource for bridging the gap from life to death, for navigating the journey, and for reconnecting to the natural aspects of death. They also have useful resources to help cope with end-of-life decisions during the pandemic.

[Minnesota Death Collaborative](#)

[MN Death Collaborative COVID-19 Resources](#)

[End-of-Life Doula Hotline](#)

1-888-351-8999 Free & Confidential

COVID-19 has put issues of life and death front and center in our lives, leaving many shocked and struggling. The Minnesota Death Collaborative launched this hotline to connect you with experienced, trained end-of-life doulas who can listen compassionately and equip you with resources.

Call if you are:

- Feeling anxious about a sick or dying loved one
- Worrying about completing important end of life plans
- Supporting a loved one facing serious illness or death in a home, hospital or facility
- Wanting to honor and celebrate the life of a loved one who has died
- Struggling with feelings of grief over the loss of a loved one

Brain Support Network – Brain Donation

Arrange to donate your brain or a loved one's brain in order to obtain a confirmed diagnosis (from an autopsy report), and to support research into the causes, treatments, and cures for neurodegenerative disorders.

The Brain Support Network helps you arrange for a brain donation even if you are not enrolled in a current research study. Today, brain banks focused on neurodegenerative diseases are interested in brain donation from persons with diagnoses such as Lewy Body Dementia, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Multiple System Atrophy, Corticobasal Degeneration, Parkinson's Disease, Frontotemporal Dementia, etc.

See the Brain Support Network [FAQ](#) for more about eligibility.

Whether you are planning in advance or thinking about this when the end of life may be days away, thank you for considering brain donation!

[Brain Support Network](#)

Brain Autopsy Program

HealthPartners Center for Memory and Aging

Having a loved one with memory loss or dementia can be devastating. There are unanswered questions about what caused the illness and whether it will affect other family members. A brain autopsy is often the only way to determine what disease caused the dementia symptoms.

A brain autopsy is important to:

- Get a clear diagnosis of the disease and provide a sense of closure
- Provide an accurate medical history for family members.
- Improve future research and treatments.

Fees start at \$875, but costs vary depending upon the location of death. When prearranged, there should be no delay for typical funeral arrangements. The procedure will be performed within 24 hours of death. There are no obvious marks from a brain autopsy, which allows for an open casket funeral. No one will know unless you tell them. A confidential report is sent to authorized family members 4-5 months after the procedure.

For more information, please 651-495-6565

Former Dementia Caregiver Re-Entry Group

Find the “New” you after caregiving. In an informal setting, share with others who have had a similar journey. This is an opportunity to move past the grief and loss to reclaim “you”, and create a meaningful life beyond your caregiver role. Experienced facilitators will coordinate and offer referrals and resources as needed.

Sessions held online via Zoom 1-2:30 p.m. on the second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month. Topics and organization are determined by participants. The group may transition to “hybrid” meetings including both in-person and Zoom to accommodate participants from farther away.

Contact Warren Wolfe at 612-791-5316 or email warren.wolfe11@gmail.com.

Sponsored by Roseville Alzheimer’s & Dementia Community Action Team

St. Anthony Park Bereavement Support Group

When: First Thursday of every month

Time: 10-11:30 AM

Where: Online through Zoom!

Email Pastor Victoria Wilgocki at pastor@sapucc.org for the Bereavement Support Group link. Sponsored by: SAP United Church of Christ, SAP Lutheran Church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Peace Lutheran Church and St. Anthony Park Area Seniors. No obligation.

FamilyMeans – The Center for Grief & Loss

The Center for Grief & Loss offers specialized therapy for complicated grief, trauma and life transitions. All of our staff are clinically trained mental health therapists, which allows us to competently work with a variety of concerns for which individuals and families seek mental health care. Our staff is particularly passionate about and experienced in helping individuals and families experiencing healing and growth from grief and trauma.

The Center for Grief & Loss provides services specific to loss and trauma:

- Individual, couple, and family therapy for all ages.
- Support groups
- Consultation and critical incident response to businesses, schools and organizations in the aftermath of a sudden death or traumatic experience.
- Clinical supervision, professional workshops and training.

Contact FamilyMeans Center for Grief & Loss at 651-641-0177.

Caregiving & Beyond – Support Group

Sessions held quarterly – March, June, September and December. Sessions include resources, facilitated discussion, reflection, and support about life after caregiving.

Register by contacting Sarah Gavin at 651-789-4004 or email sgavin@familymeans.org.

[Center for Grief & Loss](#)

Bridge to Wellness: Aging & Mental Health Support Group

Learn about caring for your mind and body as you age at the Bridge to Wellness: Aging & Mental Health Support Group for adults ages 60+ who may be:

- Experiencing sadness, loneliness, depression or anxiety
- Coping with loss and grief
- Managing chronic health conditions like diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure or cholesterol
- Thinking about trying mental health services like therapy

Schedule: Attend one group or attend them all — it's up to you. New aging and mental health topics every 4th Wednesday of the month until August 2022.

Location: Online – join by phone or any device with internet or Wi-Fi. Once registered, you will receive more information on how to join.

Sign up: 651-280-CARE (2273) or email: healthyaging@wilder.org or [Click to Register](#)

[Amherst H. Wilder Foundation](#)

Moving Forward – Life After Dementia Caregiving

Online group sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, Minnesota-North Dakota chapter. Designed for spouses who have recently lost their partner due to Alzheimer's or other types of dementia. Although grief and loss are discussed, this is not a typical grief group. The group focuses on building connections with others who understand the unique challenges of losing a spouse due to dementia and moving forward, life after dementia caregiving.

Meets 9:30-11am on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly. Register by contacting Jenna Pogorels at 218-722-4335 or jpogorels@alz.org.

[Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota/North Dakota](#)

Support for Later Caregiving/After Caregiving

The group serves both former caregivers and those in later stages of caregiving.

It meets in person from 1-2pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 13801 Fairview Dr., Burnsville. Fewer meetings are scheduled for August and September.

For more information contact: Vicki Patterson, 651-373-6786
or email victoria.patterson@darts1.org.

Sponsored by [DARTS](#) in Dakota County