

Witness to the second request checklist

Voluntary assisted dying



This checklist is to help you carry out your role as a witness to the second request, for someone accessing voluntary assisted dying.

It outlines the steps you need to take and the supporting documents available that can help you in your role. You can ☒ check items off as you complete them.

You do not need to use this checklist if you do not want to. You also do not need to show it to the person accessing voluntary assisted dying or their coordinating doctor.

Step 1: Accepting the role

Steps	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a conversation with the person about being the witness to second request.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Read the <i>Being a witness to the second request</i> information.
	Do you understand the role of a witness to the second request?
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD-Support) or the person's coordinating doctor.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirm your eligibility to be a witness to the second request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you over 18?
	Check if you are not an ineligible witness. If you answer 'yes' to any of the below questions you cannot be a witness to the second request:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you know or believe that you are a beneficiary of the person's will? • Do you know or believe that you may otherwise benefit financially or in any other way from the death of the person? • Are you the owner or manager at a facility where the person lives or is being treated? • Are you the coordinating or consulting practitioner for the person?



Step 2: Completing the role

Steps	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not sign the <i>Second Request Form</i> if the meeting is over phone, video communication or the internet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fill in the witness section of the <i>Second Request Form</i> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raise any concerns with the coordinating doctor or QVAD-Support.
If the person is signing the <i>Second Request Form</i> themselves	
Check that:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the person signed the <i>Second Request Form</i> in front of you
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the person appeared to sign the <i>Second Request Form</i> freely and voluntarily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">you are not knowingly an ineligible witness
If someone else is signing the <i>Second Request Form</i> for the person	
Check that:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the person appeared to freely and voluntarily tell the other person to sign the <i>Second Request Form</i> for them
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the other person signed the <i>Second Request Form</i> in front of you and the person making the second request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">you are not knowingly an ineligible witness

Step 3: Support

This section is for you at any stage through the process.

Steps	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Different people will need and want different levels of support.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If at any time you feel you need help or support, you can contact QVAD-Support or any of the helplines provided.

QVAD-Support

QVAD-Support provides advice to all Queenslanders about voluntary assisted dying.

QVAD-Support is run by care coordinators who are medical, nursing, and allied healthcare workers. You can contact QVAD-Support if you have any questions about your role as a witness to the second request or voluntary assisted dying.

You can talk to a care coordinator Monday to Friday, 8.30am-4pm.

Phone: 1800 431 371

Email: QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au

Support

You do not need to do this on your own and help is available. When someone is dying or has died it can be a very stressful time. Grief is different for everyone. There is no right way to feel when experiencing loss or helping someone through the voluntary assisted dying process. Grief can be complex, and it can also start before someone dies.

If grief or your involvement supporting someone through the voluntary assisted dying process is affecting your physical or mental wellbeing, you might consider speaking to your doctor or another healthcare worker (for example, a psychologist). Asking for help is okay. Different people may need and want different levels of support.

Support services

Call one of the helplines below for support and counselling:

24/7 crisis services

- Mental Health Access Line call 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- Lifeline call 13 11 14 (24/7 – phone, text, online)
- Suicide Call Back Service call 1300 659 467 (24/7 – phone and online)

Support services

- Beyond Blue call 1300 22 4636 (24/7 – phone, online)
- Griefline call 1300 845 745 (6am to midnight AEST, 7 days a week)
- Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre call 3317 1234 or 1800 188 189 (outside Brisbane) or 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- World Wellness Group (multicultural support) call 1300 079 020
- 13YARN (13 92 76) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

For more information and support visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/help-lines>.



Help in your language

If you need an interpreter, ask your doctor for one. It is free.

For help reading this information call:

- Multicultural Connect Line free hotline number: 1300 079 020
- Interpreter Service (Help with English): 13 QGOV (13 74 68) and ask for an interpreter
- Translating and Interpreting Service: 13 14 50