

Process Overview and Checklist:

Reporting a MAiD death to the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario

Step 1: Notify the Office of the Chief Coroner of a MAiD Death

As required by [law](#), the Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) must be notified of and review all medical assistance in dying (MAiD) deaths in Ontario.

The process you can expect is:

1. MAiD providers (physician or nurse practitioner) must contact **Provincial Dispatch at 416-314-4100 or toll-free 1-855-299-4100** to report any MAiD death.
2. The MAiD provider will be connected with the on-call MAiD Nurse Investigator who will review the case.
3. The Nurse Investigator will call back within 30 minutes. If you do not receive a call back within this time, please call Provincial Dispatch again.

Tip: It is best to call the OCC from the death site so that the Nurse Investigator can speak with family members or anyone else who may have been present at the death.

Step 2: Work with the OCC to Provide Requisite Information

As outlined in section 10.1(2) of [the Coroners Act](#), the MAiD provider must provide the OCC with all necessary information relating to the death so the coroner may determine if the death should be investigated.

The Nurse Investigator obtains this information by the following:

- Telephone interview with the MAiD provider, during which he/she will ask a series of questions relating to the circumstances surrounding the patient's request for MAiD (e.g., relevant medical history, diagnosis, reason for seeking MAiD, and other details regarding MAiD); and,
- Review of documentation submitted by the MAiD provider. See page 2 for an information checklist and a list of documents frequently requested by the OCC.

All documents should be sent to OCC either via fax (416-848-7791) or secure email within a few hours after the death to expedite the review process and minimize disruption to the family. There may be rare occasions when this is not possible, in which case the documents should be provided as soon as reasonably possible under the circumstances. Please contact Provincial Dispatch at 416-314-4100 or toll-free 1-855-299-4100 to access secure email.

Tip: Please notify the family that they will also be contacted by a Nurse Investigator. If no family member is involved or available, someone familiar with the patient and the circumstances surrounding the request for MAiD would be suitable (e.g., close family friend, power of attorney).

Tip: To reduce any significant delay in providing records, these can be scanned and saved in advance of the death and later sent as an attachment via secure email after the MAiD procedure.

Step 3: Body Release and/or Investigation Process

If it is determined that the death does not need to be investigated, the Nurse Investigator will confirm that the body may be released to the funeral service provider requested by the family.

In circumstances where further investigation may be required, the Nurse Investigator will provide additional instructions to the MAiD provider.

Note Regarding the Medical Certificate of Death:

The MAiD provider can complete the death certificate immediately, even before the discussion with the Nurse Investigator, since the certificate is required to allow funeral service processes to be initiated.

When completing the death certificate, please note that the illness, disease or disability leading to the request for medical assistance in dying is to be recorded as the cause of death.

If the OCC investigates the MAiD death, the investigator will provide a replacement death certificate at a later date.

No reference to MAiD or the drugs administered for the purposes of MAiD should be included on the Medical Certificate of Death.

Information Checklist for MAiD Providers

MAiD providers can expect the Nurse Investigator to ask for the following pieces of information:

MAiD provider information

- Name, contact information, license or registration number, work email address, and medical specialty

Patient information

- Demographic information: name, date of birth, sex, home address, health insurance number
- Province or territory that issued the patient's health insurance number
- Postal code associated with the patient's health insurance number
- Medical history, diagnosis, -reason for seeking MAiD

Request information

- Dates on which the written request for MAiD was signed
- Date on which the provider received the written request for MAiD
- Source of referral (i.e., patient; another practitioner; care coordination service; another third party)

Assessment

- Assessor 1: name, contact information, work email address, medical specialty, date of assessment
- Assessor 2: name, contact information, work email address, medical specialty, date of assessment

Organ/tissue donation requested by patient

- Contact the [Trillium Gift of Life Network \(1-800-263-2883\)](#) if the patient wishes to consent to organ/tissue donation
- Provide Nurse Investigator with medical history to inform OCC about the patient's organ/tissue donation decision

Where the reflection period is shortened

- The specific statutory exception used as reason for shortening (patient's death and/or loss of capacity is imminent)
- The information/observations that support each of the assessors' opinions that the exception was satisfied

MAiD procedure

- Date and time of death
- Location of death
- Medication protocol utilized (drug type(s) and dosages)
- Who was present during the procedure?
- Any concerns regarding the procedure?

Family or next of kin

- Name and relationship to the deceased patient
- Contact Information — cellphone or home phone number preferable

Mandatory reporting under the federal MAiD monitoring regulations

- Did the patient previously consult the assessors and/or the provider for a reason other than seeking MAiD?
- Did the assessors and/or provider consult with other health care professionals?
- Did the patient receive palliative care? If yes, for how long?
- Did the patient require and/or receive disability support services? If yes, for how long?
- If the patient had difficulty communicating, what measures were taken to ensure the patient was able to understand the information provided to them and communicate their decision?

Documents Frequently Requested by the OCC

- Patient's written request for MAiD - [Clinician Aid A](#) can be used as a written request
- First MAiD assessment, including the first assessor's clinical note that provides detailed history, rationale and criteria supporting the patient's eligibility for MAiD - [Clinician Aid B](#) can assist with documentation of the first assessment
- Second MAiD assessment, including the second assessor's clinical note that provides detailed history, rationale and criteria supporting the patient's eligibility for MAiD - [Clinician Aid C](#) can assist with documentation of the second assessment
- Where applicable, documentation by both assessors that supports the rationale for shortened reflection period
- Where available, any recent and/or relevant consultation reports (e.g., from oncology, palliative care, psychiatry, etc.)
- Where available, reports on relevant imaging studies, pathology reviews, diagnostic tests, and/or other investigations pertaining to the patient's illness, disease, or disability prompting the request for MAiD
- Where applicable and/or necessary (e.g., shortened reflection period), relevant clinical notations reflecting the patient's condition over the interval between the time of written request and the procedure
- Documentation of the MAiD procedure, including location, the medication protocol utilized (i.e., drug type(s) and dosages), and the time of the patient's death
- Any other information that may support the formation of a complete picture of the patient's condition and/or the events that led to the request for MAiD

NOTE: The purpose of the supporting documentation is to provide information about the patient's condition and previous and current MAiD requests. Additional documentation may be requested if further information is considered necessary to form an opinion about whether the death needs to be investigated.