

WHAT IS ASSISTED DYING



Assisted dying is where a person who has a **terminal illness**, or who is experiencing **unbearable physical suffering**, chooses to end their life with the help of a medical professional.

Assisted dying is not the same as suicide. Assisted dying is a service provided to people in certain limited circumstances that will be set out in law.

It does not replace the palliative care and end of life services which provide the support and care that most people want and need. Assisted dying is an additional choice that some people may make to have more control over the manner and timing of their death.



HAVE YOUR SAY

You can ask questions or share your hopes, thoughts and concerns in the following ways:

Ask your questions:

At [sli.do](#) using the code:
AssistedDyingJSY

Email us: AssistedDying@gov.je

Visit us at a drop-in session:

St Clement Parish Hall
Friday 18 March
11:30-13:00
Book via Eventbrite

St Brelade Parish Hall
Thursday 24 March
12:00-13:30
Book via Eventbrite

Town Library
Wednesday 30 March
16:30-18:30
Book via Eventbrite

Town Library
Thursday 31 March
11:45-13:45
Book via Eventbrite

We will also be arranging consultation meetings with specific stakeholder and interest groups. Email AssistedDying@gov.je for details.

We will collect your questions and thoughts for publication on [gov.je](#) as key themes. They will help inform the development of the detailed proposals to be considered by the States Assembly in November 2022.

Assisted dying is a sensitive subject. If reading this information raises distressing feelings for you, there is support available – see gov.je/AssistedDying for links to support.

ASSISTED DYING IN JERSEY

The States Assembly
have decided ‘in principle’
to permit assisted dying.



WHAT HAVE THE STATES ASSEMBLY AGREED?

In November 2021 the States Assembly became the first parliament in the British Isles to decide **‘in principle’** to permit assisted dying. An ‘in principle’ decision means the States Assembly wants to receive more information before confirming how an assisted dying service in Jersey should operate.

The Assembly agreed **‘in principle’** a number of decisions. Including that a person could be assisted to die either by taking medication or being given medication. Also, that a person who could choose to have an assisted death would be a Jersey resident who:

- is aged 18 or over
- has the capacity to take a decision to end their life
- has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and has a life expectancy of 6 months or less, or has an incurable physical condition that causes enduring and unbearable suffering

They also agreed in principle that a person’s decision to access assisted dying must also be:

Voluntary

The decision would be their own choice, freely made with no pressure or coercion from others.

Continuing

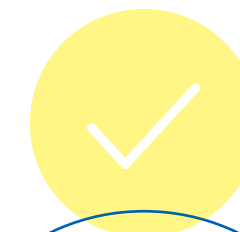
Meaning that their choice is settled and stays the same.

Fully informed

The person must be well-informed about their disease and their care and treatment options.

Safeguards must be in place to protect people choosing an assisted death and people involved in providing this service, for example, doctors and nurses. The safeguards agreed **‘in principle’** by the Assembly include:

- a pre-approval process. To determine if the person requesting an assisted death meets the criteria set out in the law. This may involve a decision taken by a court or specialist tribunal
- that the pre-approval process will include a period of reflection. To ensure a person is certain about their decision to proceed
- that a person may change their mind at any point during the process and decide not to proceed with an assisted death
- a conscientious objection clause. This allows medical professionals to choose if they want to assist the person to die



These decisions are the first steps towards assisted dying being permitted in Jersey.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Having made an ‘in principle’ decision the next step is for the States Assembly to consider more detailed assisted dying proposals in November 2022.

- ✓ **November 2021**
States Assembly approved assisted dying in principle
- **Spring and Summer 2022**
Listening to islanders asking their questions and sharing thoughts
- **November 2022**
States Assembly debate on detailed assisted dying proposals
- **November 2022 - March 2023**
Preparation of draft legislation
- **May 2023**
Draft legislation debated in States Assembly
- **May 2023 onwards**
Implementation of assisted dying service in Jersey (if legislation is passed), where a period of time will be needed to set up an assisted dying service, this will include training of health professionals.

Between now and November 2022, we want to know your views on how assisted dying should work in Jersey. What safeguards should be in place and what should an assisted dying service look like?

