

# Law Offices of Howard S. Dymant

## Medical Assistance in Dying:



Greetings!

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) is a very difficult topic to discuss, but with the law changing to remove what I thought were safeguards, it is time for us to have this discussion. Recently, a colleague of mine who I have known my entire career chose to bring his life to a close through MAID so this topic touches close to home for me.

Our Courts, when asked to rule on the constitutionality of MAID, bounced the ball back to our Federal Government to draft legislation to balance **"the rights of those with grievous and irremediable medical conditions to die with dignity on one hand, and the protection of individuals who are vulnerable and whose capable wishes can no longer be confirmed on the other."**

I have followed discussions on this topic for years prior to the current Bill C-7 2020. Since 2015, in order to access MAID,

you had to be covered by OHIP, be at least 18, be capable of making your own health care decisions, have a grievous or irremediable medical condition and have made this decision voluntarily without outside pressure.

Bill C-7 2020 just received Royal Assent on March 7, 2021. A person's natural death will no longer have to be reasonably foreseeable and individuals who previously consented to receive it but are no longer capable, can access MAID on the basis of their prior consent.

MAID, particularly with the recent legislative changes, has made it crucial that one rethink their Life Insurance, Will and Estate Planning. For example, it may be better to maintain an older insurance contract than replace it with a new policy. Should one's assets be distributed in a different manner than provided for in an earlier Will? Many other difficult questions will need to be discussed, particularly with one's family, which would not have had to be discussed in the past.

My Office now carries out all Consultations, Will and Estate Planning including execution by Zoom™, so revising or preparing your Will and Powers of Attorney or simply just consulting with me over the issues raised in this blog can be done privately from the comfort of your own home.

To read an excellent review of this entire area by a colleague of mine, you may click [here](#). If you prefer to read the enabling legislation you may click [here](#).

If I can help you in any other way, please feel free to contact me at:  
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