



Contact Person Information

Responsibilities of a Contact Person

After a person makes a final request for voluntary assisted dying, they must appoint someone to be their Contact Person.

The Contact Person has responsibilities under the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021](#) to:

- return the voluntary assisted dying medication kit to the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service](#)
- respond to contact from the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board Secretariat](#) after the person dies.

The Contact Person must be willing and able to return the voluntary assisted dying medication kit to the SA Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service in any of the below circumstances:

- within 15 days after the date of a person's death
- if the Coordinating Practitioner assesses that the person is no longer able to self-administer the medication
- if the person chooses not to use the medication at all.

If the Contact Person doesn't return any unused or remaining voluntary assisted dying substance to the SA Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service within 15 days after the person dies, they could be charged with a crime. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for 12 months.

Who can be a Contact Person

The *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021* requires a Contact Person to:

- be aged 18 years or older
- accept the appointment as the Contact Person.

The Contact Person may be:

- the person's carer, family member or friend
- someone involved in providing care to the person.

If you need help finding someone to be your Contact Person, you can contact the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service](#). If you are an inpatient at a public hospital, you can also ask to contact Voluntary Assisted Dying Liaisons for the relevant hospital who can assist you.

Appointing a Contact Person

The person making a final request for voluntary assisted dying asks their Coordinating Medical Practitioner to download a Contact Person Appointment Form from the VAD Clinical Portal.

The person and their Contact Person must complete and sign the Contact Person Appointment Form in the presence of another person aged 18 years or older.

If the person is unable to sign the Contact Person Appointment Form, another person may sign the form on their behalf.



Another person signing the declaration on the person's behalf must:

- be aged 18 years or older
- not be a witness to the signing of the Contact Person Appointment Form
- not be the Contact Person
- sign the declaration in the person's presence.

If the person is supported by an interpreter, the interpreter must also sign the form to certify that they provided a true and correct translation of any material.

Things to consider before appointing a Contact Person:

In addition to the Contact Person requirements listed in the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021*, the person should consider if their chosen Contact Person is:

- capable of accessing the medication, if necessary, for example the person is comfortable with Contact Person having access to their property
- capable of contacting the Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service and following instructions to return the medication kit
- not at high risk of experiencing significant grief
- not a known substance user and will not use or sell the medication illicitly.

Changing a Contact Person

A person may change their Contact Person at any time, including at the request of the Contact Person.

If the Contact Person cannot continue with their role, a new Contact Person must be appointed as soon as possible.

Support for the Contact Person

When the Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service supplies the voluntary assisted dying medication to the person, a pharmacist will:

- provide education to the person and their Contact Person about administering the medication
- check the Contact Person understands their role
- escalate any concerns about the Contact Person's ability to fulfill their role or wellbeing.

After the person's death, the Contact Person should contact the Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service to arrange return of the voluntary assisted dying medication.

If required, the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board Secretariat will contact the Contact Person to provide further information about returning the medication and support services available to do so.

The Contact Person can also contact the Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service for advice on grief and bereavement support.

Contact us

For more information about voluntary assisted dying in South Australia visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vad.

Specialist services are available to support access to and provide information about voluntary assisted dying to people making decisions at end of life, their family, friends and carers, health practitioners and service providers.

South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service (SAVAD-CNS)

For support to access voluntary assisted dying contact:

Email: Health.VADCareNavigators@sa.gov.au

Phone: [0403 087 390](tel:0403087390)

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service (SAVAD-PS)

For queries related to the supply, administration or disposal of voluntary assisted dying medication contact:

Email: Health.VADPharmacy@sa.gov.au

Phone: [\(08\) 7326 1746](tel:0873261746)

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board

If you would like to contact the Review Board, email the Secretariat at:

Email: Health.VADReviewBoard@sa.gov.au

Phone: [\(08\) 8226 8859](tel:0882268859)

Support

Some people may find issues relating to voluntary assisted dying concerning or distressing.

If you need to talk to someone, these services provide telephone support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

- visit the [Lifeline website](#) or call [13 11 14](tel:131114).
- visit our [Bereavement Portal](#) website.
- visit the [SA Health mental health services](#) webpage.
- call the Mental Health Triage Service on [13 14 65](tel:131465).
- Call the [Kids Helpline](#) on [1800 551 800](tel:1800551800).

For more information

Health Services Programs Branch
Department for Health and Wellbeing

Health.VoluntaryAssistedDying@sa.gov.au

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vad

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