

The Dying Person's Bill of Rights

- ✓ To be treated as a living person until I die.
- ✓ To maintain a sense of hopefulness however changing its focus may be.
- ✓ To express my feelings and emotions about my approaching death in my own way.
- ✓ To expect continuing medical and nursing care even though 'cure' goals must be changed to 'comfort' goals.
- ✓ To not die alone.
- ✓ To be free from pain.
- ✓ To have my questions answered honestly.
- ✓ To participate in decisions concerning my care.
- ✓ To have help from and for my family in accepting my death.
- ✓ To not be judged for my decisions which may be contrary to the beliefs of others.
- ✓ To be cared for by sensitive, knowledgeable people who will try to understand my needs.
- ✓ To die in a setting of personal choice with loved ones present or not.
- ✓ To die in peace and with dignity.

Terrace Hospice Society

About Us

The Terrace Hospice Society provides a volunteer-based program that offers compassionate support for the dying, their caregivers, and the bereaved in the Terrace area.

Contact Us

Terrace Hospice Society
#207 – 4650 Lazelle Ave
Terrace, BC V8G 1S6
Phone (250) 635-4811
Fax (250) 635-4817

email: terracehospice@citywest.ca

Website: www.terracehospice.org



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Vigil Program

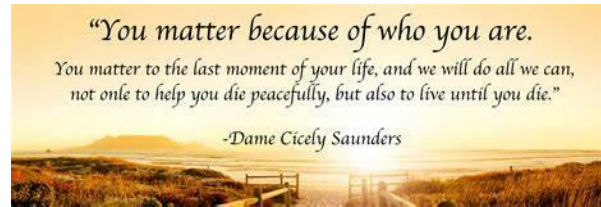
End-of-Life can be an overwhelming experience. The Terrace Hospice Society provides support, education reassurance, and resources that will guide and assist the client and family through

HOSPICE IS A PHILOSOPHY OF
CARE THAT VALUES LIFE
FROM THE MOMENT IT BEGINS TO
THE MOMENT IT ENDS.

~DAME CICELY SAUNDERS
FOUNDER OF THE FIRST HOSPICE

Vigil Program

The goal of the Terrace Hospice Vigil Program is to ensure that no one dies alone. Many individuals and their families fear being alone as death nears. Terrace Hospice Society strives to provide them with companionship and support. Our staff and Volunteers consider it an honor and privilege to participate in a vigil. They have been specially trained to sit vigil and to be present with an individual as they transition from life to death. The program is also designed to provide companionship for individuals during their last hours of life who would otherwise be without family or friends.



Our first effort when death is imminent is to encourage and support the family and to be present at time of death. By educating and preparing them for the physical symptoms and supporting them emotionally, we can empower them to comfort their loved one until death occurs. When family or friends are not available, Hospice Volunteers and staff provide human contact so that death is not a solitary experience.

The Terrace Hospice Volunteers help as the individual transitions from life to death. The Volunteer provides companionship for both the individual and their family and friends. The trained Volunteer is able to help by their presence. Their duties include providing support by helping to create a quiet and peaceful space for the individual and their family. If desired, they can provide gentle touch through handholding, lightly wiping the brow, and otherwise providing comforting and calm reassurance. Reading to them or playing soft music is also often helpful.

The Vigil Volunteer will also communicate with the clinical team if there is any observable discomfort or change in status. At the time of death, the Volunteer will also be able to help with the immediate consoling of the family and friends who are present with the start of grief support. Additional support as needed by the family may also be provided by the Volunteer at this time.

Our remarkable vigil volunteers are committed to working with clients and their loved ones as they near the end of their life's journey.

