

Safeguards

Voluntary assisted dying is a process that enables an eligible individual to voluntarily access and self-administer, or in some circumstances have a medical practitioner administer, a medication that will cause their death, in accordance with the steps and process set out in the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021](#) (the Act).

There are 70 safeguards embedded in the Act to ensure voluntary assisted dying can only be accessed by people who are eligible, providing one of the safest voluntary assisted dying pathways in the world.

The Act ensures that a person's decision to access voluntary assisted dying is voluntary and provides clear guidance for how health practitioners can lawfully support their choice. The Act provides for and regulates access to voluntary assisted dying in South Australia by:

- establishing clear eligibility criteria
- a request and assessment process, including requirements for medical practitioners
- a voluntary assisted dying permit process which authorises the prescribing and dispensing of the voluntary assisted dying medication
- establishing the [South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board](#)
- safeguards including medication monitoring, practitioner protections, offences, and a five-year review.

Key safeguards in the legislation include:

- a person making a request to access voluntary assisted dying must have decision-making capacity in relation to voluntary assisted dying
- a person making a request to access voluntary assisted dying must make a decision that is voluntary and made without coercion
- demonstration that the choice to request voluntary assisted dying is enduring
- registered health practitioners are prohibited from initiating a discussion about voluntary assisted dying with a patient
- requirements relating to the qualifications and training of participating medical practitioners
- record keeping and reporting requirements.

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For more information

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