

## MAID Supports Interview Guide

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### **A qualitative study of families and informal supports' experiences with the medical assistance in dying (MAiD) process in Canada**

*This is \_\_\_ investigator interviewing participant # \_\_\_. This is interview # \_\_\_ completed on \_\_\_ date.*

*I'd like to make it clear that you can withdraw from the interview at any time. You can also request not to answer a specific question at any time. If any names or personal details are mentioned, these will not be translated into the written records, rather an ID number will be assigned and your data will be anonymized.*

*Thank you for joining me today, I appreciate you taking the time. Do you have an hour to talk with me? If you see me looking off to the side sometimes, it's because I'm writing down notes.*

*In this study, we are interested in learning about your experiences with medical assistance in dying or what is often called MAiD.*

*It's ok if you are emotional, this is an emotional topic. I have my tissues ready too.*

#### Introduction:

1. Can I confirm that you have signed the consent form to permit audio recording of our interview? Check with Jocelyne about this.
2. Do you have any questions before we begin?
3. Do you understand the instructions?
4. Are you willing to proceed with this interview?

#### Background:

5. Would you be willing to share your age?
6. The person you know who had medical assistance in dying, MAiD, were they your spouse, child, parent?
7. In a few sentences, how would you describe this person?
8. What was their diagnosis?
9. How old were they at their diagnosis? How old were they at the time of their death?
10. How long had they been ill before their death?
11. When was their medically assisted death?
12. Was this your first experience with death?
13. Was this your first experience with MAiD?
14. What did you think about MAiD before \_\_\_ had MAiD?

*I'd now like to ask you about what happened before the person went through MAiD.*

Prompt

Can you tell me about what happened before they went through MAiD?

Before MAiD:

15. Did you and the person discuss MAiD before they began the process?
  - a. If so, do you recall when you first had that discussion?
  - b. If so, how long was it from the time of their diagnosis until they first considered a. MAiD?
16. Why do you think \_\_\_\_\_ decided to have MAiD?
17. What was your role when they were talking about MAiD?
18. Did you seek out information regarding MAiD? If so, where did you find it?
19. What did you think about the information you had about MAiD before the death?
20. When you found out \_\_\_\_\_ was going to have MAiD, did you seek out support? If so, what support? If not, why do you feel you did not need support?
2. 23. How long was it from the time of their request for MAiD to when they died?
  - a. What did you think about that amount of time?
3. 24. What do you think could be improved or different before MAiD?

*I'd now like to ask you about what happened as the person was going through MAiD.*

Prompt

Can you describe what happened on the day of MAiD?

Day of MAiD

24. Were you there in the room on the day of their MAiD death?
  - a. If yes, have you been present for other deaths? If so, how did MAiD compare to this?
  - b. If no, was this at yours or \_\_\_\_\_ request?
  - c. Who else was there on the day of MAiD?
  - d. What did you do in the hours before the death occurred?
25. Where did the death take place?
  - a. Ex: in hospital, in a nursing home, private home
26. Who administered the MAiD medications?
27. Was there anything about the procedure itself or the day of death that surprised you or you felt unprepared for?
28. What do you think could be improved or different on the day of MAiD?

*I'd now like to ask you about what happened after the person went through MAiD.*

Prompts

Can you tell me what you did immediately and in the months after the MAiD death?

Can you tell me about the support system you had before, during and after MAiD.

After MAiD:

29. What did you do after the MAiD procedure was finished?

30. Has the person's decision to have MAiD and being involved in the process changed how you think about MAiD?
  - a. If so, in which ways?
  - b. If not, why do you think that is?
31. Were there times during the process that you felt alone, confused or under-supported? If so, please tell me more about this.
32. In your experience, what could be done to improve the MAiD process?
33. If someone else was interested in MAiD for themselves, what would you say to them?
34. If you fit the eligibility criteria, would you ever consider MAiD for yourself?
  - a. If so, why?
  - b. If not, why?
35. What kind of support did you have after the person's MAiD death?
36. Did you seek out support groups or counselling services?
  - a. If yes, can you tell me about who you reached out to?
  - b. If not, why did you not seek out these?
37. Do you think you needed different bereavement supports because \_\_\_\_ had MAiD?
38. Did you tell others how this person died?
  - a. If yes, how did they react?
  - b. If no, why not?
39. Has anyone judged you because your \_\_\_\_ had MAiD? Did you feel shamed or that you had to keep MAiD a secret?
40. What other support do you think people need if they are going through MAiD with someone?
41. Was MAiD put in the person's obituary or information about their death?

Closing Remarks:

42. Is there anything else that you want to talk about with your MAiD experience that we did not discuss?
43. Do you have any questions for me or about the research?