

The Dying Person's Bill of Rights

The dying person has the right to:

- ♥ *be treated as a living person until death*
- ♥ *maintain a sense of hopefulness, however changing its focus may be*
- ♥ *express feelings about approaching death in one's own way*
- ♥ *participate in decisions concerning care*
- ♥ *to die in a setting of personal choice with loved ones present or not*
- ♥ *be free of pain*
- ♥ *to be cared for by compassionate, knowledgeable people who will try to understand one's needs*
- ♥ *have questions answered honestly and not be deceived*
- ♥ *retain individuality and not be judged for decisions made*
- ♥ *have help from and for family and friends in accepting death*
- ♥ *die in peace and dignity*

Adapted from "The Terminally Ill Patient and the Helping Person Workshop, 1975

Our Privacy Policy

Langley Hospice Society is committed to protecting the privacy of its donors, members, volunteers, employees and other stakeholders. Your personal information is never shared with other organizations.

Mission Statement

Langley Hospice Society, a community-based, non-profit organization, provides compassionate support to help people live with dignity and hope while coping with grief and the end of life.



**Langley
Hospice Society**

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**Registered Charity Number:
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**Langley
Hospice Society**



Hospice Vigil Program

Trained volunteers provide bedside support and a caring presence in the final days and hours of a person's life

Hospice is an approach to care which:

- ♥ emphasizes comfort, dignity and quality of life.
- ♥ offers support to patients, family and friends throughout the last stage of illness, at the time of death and during bereavement.
- ♥ is available to patients and their families in their home, in hospital or in a hospice residence.



The Langley Hospice Society is...

- ♥ a registered not-for-profit charitable organization established in 1983.
- ♥ committed to providing emotional and practical support for people who are living with a life-limiting illness, their family and friends throughout the last stage of illness, at the time of death and bereavement.
- ♥ funded through general donations, fund-raising events, memorial and in honor gifts, planned giving, grants, Second Story Treasures Thrift Store, BC Gaming, United Way and a service contract with Fraser Health.

Hospice Vigil Program

Philosophy

It is Langley Hospice's hope that no one dies alone, unless they choose to. The goal of the Vigil Program is to pair volunteers with patients, providing companionship during their final hours.

A vigil may be requested:

- ♥ in the absence of loved ones,
- ♥ when family member/loved one needs a break from the bedside,
- ♥ when family member/loved one needs support while at the bedside.

Generally this program is provided when a person is estimated to be in the last 72 hours of life. The Hospice Vigil Program is confidential and free of charge.

The Hospice Vigil Team

Vigil volunteers receive training on the philosophy of hospice as well as skills in caring for and communicating with patients and their families. Volunteers offer comfort, support, companionship and information. They are trained to alert the medical staff of any changes or concerns. Mostly they are a calming, peaceful presence for the individual and their loved ones.

Vigil volunteers are available on an as-needed basis. Out of respect to the volunteer's schedule and location, 24 hours notice is requested.

Request for a Vigil

Vigil services may be requested by medical staff, caregivers, loved ones or the individual nearing death. Vigils can take place in the hospital, hospice residence, or extended care facility.

Referral Information

When making a referral for a vigil, the following information is required:

- ♥ Name and contact information of the person referring
- ♥ Name of the family contact person if different from the referrer
- ♥ Name of the patient plus any information about their status and ideas about what might provide comfort
- ♥ Time frame for when the vigil team members will be needed

Notes to the Family

A small note book is left at the bedside for family, visitors or vigil team members to facilitate communication by making comments or suggestions. This book is given to a family member or loved one after the death occurs.

For more information please contact the Langley Hospice Society Palliative Program Coordinator at 604-530-1115.