



**End of Life Choices
New York**

SUICIDE AND MEDICAL AID IN DYING KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

Understanding the difference can save
lives and support informed choices.

	SUICIDE	MEDICAL AID IN DYING
 INTENT	An act of desperation to end unbearable suffering.	A considered, voluntary decision to shorten death when terminally ill.
 MOTIVATION	Driven by feelings of hopelessness, or believing there are no other options.	Driven by loss of autonomy with a desire to control circumstances around inevitable.
 SAFETY & SUPPORT	Often occurs following an impulsive decision and in isolation .	Occurs in a safe, supportive, legal medical process with safeguards at every step.
 ELIGIBILITY	At a time when one could continue living but chooses not to.	Strict eligibility criteria including age, mental capacity, terminal diagnosis and 6-month or less prognosis.
 PROCESS	Unregulated and often occurring alone, outside the healthcare system.	Regulated medical procedure provided with healthcare professionals after an assessment, often including family.
 AFTERWARD	Grief is often complicated by unanswered questions, shock and trauma.	Opportunities for goodbyes and peace of mind for the patient and family.



Both topics are about people - and both deserve compassion.
If you or someone you know is struggling, help is available.
You are not alone.



NEED HELP NOW?

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:
Call 988 or text HOME to 741741



Learn more about MAID?

End of Life Choices New York:
212-726-2010 or info@eolcnyc.org