

Memorandum

Date: October 14, 2016

To: Designated Capacity Assessors

From : Barb Martini, Executive Director and Public Trustee
Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee
4th Floor, John E. Brownlee Building
10365 – 97 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3Z8

Subject: OPGT Directive Regarding DCA Completion of MAID Assessments

The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT) issues this directive for Designated Capacity Assessors (DCAs) with regard to completing capacity assessments on individuals who are requesting Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID).

DCAs receive their designation from the Minister of Human Services to conduct capacity assessments under the *Adult Guardian and Trusteeship Act (AGTA)*. Designation is granted following the successful completion of a three-day training course and competency must be maintained and reviewed every two years.

Designation under the *AGTA* allows a DCA to conduct an assessment of an adult's capacity for the purposes of the *AGTA*. The *AGTA* does not apply to capacity assessments conducted for other purposes. As a result, designation under the *AGTA* does not authorize a DCA to conduct a capacity assessment relating to MAID, and is not relevant to whether a health professional may conduct a MAID assessment.

A health professional who wishes to conduct an assessment for the purpose of determining an individual's capacity to make a decision to obtain MAID should contact their regulatory college and/or Alberta Health Services for information respecting any specific requirements, policies, guidelines, directives, standards of practice, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Melanie Blackwell, Capacity Assessment Policy Analyst at 780-632-3252 or Melanie.blackwell@gov.ab.ca.



Barb Martini,
Executive Director and Public Trustee
Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee

