

## ASSISTED SUICIDE LAWS

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State	Law	Description
Alabama	Common law	Common law is based on principles, customs and case law, rather than on a specific statute. (1)
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	Alaska Stat. § 11.41.120 (a) (2)	A person commits the crime of manslaughter if the person intentionally aids another person to commit suicide
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-1103 (A) (3)	A person commits manslaughter by intentionally aiding another to commit suicide.
Arkansas	Ark. Code § 5-10-104 (a) (2) and Ark. Code § 5-10-106 (b)	A person commits manslaughter if the person purposely causes or aids another person to commit suicide. and It is unlawful for any physician or health care provider to commit the offense of physician-assisted suicide by prescribing any drug, compound, or substance to a patient with the express purpose of assisting the patient to intentionally end the patient's life or assisting in any medical procedure for the express purpose of assisting a patient to intentionally end the patient's life.
<a href="#">California</a>	Cal. Pen. Code § 401	Every person who deliberately aids, or advises, or encourages another to commit suicide, is guilty of a felony.
Colorado	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-3-104 (1) (b)	A person commits the crime of manslaughter if such person intentionally causes or aids another person to commit suicide.
Connecticut	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-56 (a)	A person is guilty of manslaughter in the second degree when he intentionally causes or aids another person, other than by force, duress or deception, to commit suicide.
Delaware	Del. Code § 645	A person is guilty of promoting suicide when the person intentionally causes or aids another person to attempt suicide, or when the person intentionally aids another person to commit suicide.
District of Columbia	Common law	Common law is based on principles, customs and case law, rather than on a specific statute. (2)
<a href="#">Florida</a>	Fla. Stat. § 782.08	Every person deliberately assisting another in the commission of self-murder shall be guilty of manslaughter, a felony of the second degree.
Georgia	Ga. Code	Any person who publicly advertises, offers, or holds

	§ 16-5-5 (b) and (c)	himself or herself out as offering that he or she will intentionally and actively assist another person in the commission of suicide and commits any overt act to further that purpose is guilty of a felony.... Any person who knowingly and willfully commits any act which destroys the volition of another, such as fraudulent practices upon such person's fears, affections, or sympathies; duress; or any undue influence whereby the will of one person is substituted for the wishes of another, and thereby intentionally causes or induces such other person to commit or attempt to commit suicide shall be guilty of a felony.
<a href="#">Hawaii</a>	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 707-702 (1) (b)	A person commits the offense of manslaughter if the person intentionally causes another person to commit suicide.
Idaho	Common law	Common law is based on principles, customs and case law, rather than on a specific statute. (3)
Illinois	Ill. Comp. Stat. § 720, 5/12-31	A person commits the offense of inducement to commit suicide when he or she does either of the following: Coerces another to commit suicide and the other person commits or attempts to commit suicide as a direct result of the coercion, and he or she exercises substantial control over the other person through (i) control of the other person's physical location or circumstances; (ii) use of psychological pressure; or (iii) use of actual or ostensible religious, political, social, philosophical or other principles, or With knowledge that another person intends to commit or attempt to commit suicide, intentionally (i) offers and provides the physical means by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide, or (ii) participates in a physical act by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide. For the purposes of this Section, "attempts to commit suicide" means any act done with the intent to commit suicide and which constitutes a substantial step toward commission of suicide.
Indiana	Ind. Code § 35-42-1-2.5	A person who has knowledge that another person intends to commit or attempt to commit suicide and who intentionally does either of the following commits assisting suicide, a Class C felony: Provides the physical means by which the other person attempts or commits suicide, or

		Participates in a physical act by which the other person attempts or commits suicide.
Iowa	Iowa Code § 707A.2	A person commits a class "C" felony if the person intentionally or knowingly assists, solicits, or incites another person to commit or attempt to commit suicide, or participates in a physical act by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide.
Kansas	Kan. Stat. § 21-3406	It is a felony to: Knowingly by force or duress causing another person to commit or to attempt to commit suicide; or With the intent and purpose of assisting another person to commit or to attempt to commit suicide, knowingly either: Provides the physical means by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide; or Participates in a physical act by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide.
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. § 216.302	A person commits a felony when the person knowingly by force or duress causes another person to commit or to attempt to commit suicide; or With the purpose of assisting another person to commit or to attempt to commit suicide, knowingly and intentionally: either: Provides the physical means by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide; or Participates in a physical act by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide.
Louisiana	La. Rev. Stat. § 14.32.12	Criminal assistance to suicide is: The intentional advising or encouraging of another person to commit suicide or the providing of the physical means or the knowledge of such means to another person for the purpose of enabling the other person to commit or attempt to commit suicide. or The intentional advising, encouraging, or assisting of another person to commit suicide, or the participation in any physical act which causes, aids, abets, or assists another person in committing or attempting to commit suicide.

		("Suicide" means the intentional and deliberate act of taking one's own life through the performance of an act intended to result in death.)
<a href="#">Maine</a>	Me. Rev. Stat. Title 17A, § 204	A person is guilty of aiding or soliciting suicide if he intentionally aids or solicits another to commit suicide, and the other commits or attempts suicide.
Maryland	Md. Crim. Law Code § 3-102	With the purpose of assisting another individual to commit or attempt to commit suicide, an individual may not: By coercion, duress, or deception, knowingly cause another individual to commit suicide or attempt to commit suicide; or Knowingly provide the physical means by which another individual commits or attempts to commit suicide with knowledge of that individual's intent to use the physical means to commit suicide; or Knowingly participate in a physical act by which another individual commits or attempts to commit suicide.
Massachusetts	Common law	Common law is based on principles, customs and case law, rather than on a specific statute.
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	Mich. Comp. Laws § 750.329a (1) and (3) or Common law	Intent to assist individual in suicide; prohibited conduct; felony; exception; effect of common law offense. A person who knows that an individual intends to kill himself or herself and does any of the following with the intent to assist the individual in killing himself or herself: (a) Provides the means by which the individual attempts to kill himself or herself or kills himself or herself. (b) Participates in an act by which the individual attempts to kill himself or herself or kills himself or herself. (c) Helps the individual plan to attempt to kill himself or herself or to kill himself or herself is guilty of criminal assistance to the killing of an individual, a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both. This section does not prohibit a prosecution under the common law offense of assisting in a suicide, but a person shall not be convicted under both this section and that common law offense for conduct arising out of the same transaction. "

Minnesota	Minn. Stat. § 609.215	Aiding suicide: Whoever intentionally advises, encourages, or assists another in taking the other's own life may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 15 years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$30,000, or both. and Aiding attempted suicide: Whoever intentionally advises, encourages, or assists another who attempts but fails to take the other's own life may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than seven years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$14,000, or both.
Mississippi	Miss. Code § 97-3-49	A person who willfully, or in any manner, advises, encourages, abets, or assists another person to take, or in taking, the latter's life, or in attempting to take the latter's life, is guilty of felony and, on conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary not exceeding ten years, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year.
Missouri	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 565.023, 1	A person commits the crime of voluntary manslaughter if he knowingly assists another in the commission of self-murder.
<a href="#">Montana</a>	Mont. Code § 45-5-105 and Mont. Code § 45-5-102 thru 104	A person who purposely aids or solicits another to commit suicide, but such suicide does not occur, commits the offense of aiding or soliciting suicide. A person convicted of the offense of aiding or soliciting a suicide shall be imprisoned in the state prison for any term not to exceed 10 years or be fined an amount not to exceed \$ 50,000, or both.  <b>Note 1:</b> According to the Montana Criminal Law Commission comments, if the assisted suicide results in death, the offense is criminal homicide, in spite of the consent or even the solicitations of the victim. <b>Note 2:</b> On 12/05/08, Montana District Court Judge Dorothy McCarter ruled that, under the state's constitution, Montanans have the right to suicide assistance from a physician.
Nebraska	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-307	A person commits assisting suicide when, with intent to assist another person in committing suicide, he aids and abets him in committing or attempting to commit suicide.
Nevada	Undetermined	The state does not recognize common law and does not have a statute regarding assisted suicide. (4)
New Hampshire	N.H. Rev. Stat. § 630:4	A person is guilty of causing or aiding suicide if he purposely aids or solicits another to commit suicide.

		Causing or aiding suicide is a class B felony if the actor's conduct causes such suicide or an attempted suicide. Otherwise it is a misdemeanor.
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. § 2C:11-6	A person who purposely aids another to commit suicide is guilty of a crime of the second degree if his conduct causes such suicide or an attempted suicide, and otherwise of a crime of the fourth degree.
New Mexico	N.M. Stat. § 30-2-4	Assisting suicide consists of deliberately aiding another in the taking of his own life. Whoever commits assisting suicide is guilty of a fourth degree felony.
New York	N.Y. Penal Law (consolidated) § 120.30 and § 125.15	A person is guilty of promoting a suicide attempt when he intentionally causes or aids another person to attempt suicide. Promoting a suicide attempt is a class E felony. and A person is guilty of manslaughter in the second degree when he intentionally causes or aids another person to commit suicide. Manslaughter in the second degree is a class C felony.
North Carolina	Common law	Common law is based on principles, customs and case law, rather than on a specific statute.
North Dakota	N.D. Cent. Code § 12.1-16-04	Any person who intentionally or knowingly aids, abets, facilitates, solicits, or incites another person to commit suicide, or who provides to, delivers to, procures for, or prescribes for another person any drug or instrument with knowledge that the other person intends to attempt to commit suicide with the drug or instrument is guilty of a class C felony. Any person who, through deception, coercion, or duress, willfully causes the death of another person by suicide is guilty of a class AA felony.
Ohio	Ohio Rev. Code § 3795.02  and Ohio Rev. Code § 4723.28 (B) (33) § 4730.25 (B) (23) § 4731.22 (B) (37) § 4761.09 (A) (14)	Assisting suicide is against the public policy of the state. An injunction to prohibit a person from assisting a suicide may be issued and the court may award the party requesting the injunction all reasonable attorney's fees, which shall be considered damages. and Assisting in a suicide is grounds for professional discipline of health care professionals.
Oklahoma	Okla. Stat. Title 21, §§ 813-818	A person who willfully furnishes another person with any deadly weapon or poisonous drug, knowing that such person intends to use the weapon or drug in taking his own life is guilty of aiding suicide if the suicide occurs

	and Okla. Stat. 63, §§ 3141.1	or is guilty of aiding an attempt at suicide if the person attempts to use the weapon or drug to take his own life.  An injunction to prohibit a person from assisting a suicide may be issued and the court may award compensatory and punitive damages to the party requesting the injunction.
<a href="#">Oregon</a>	Or. Rev. Stat. § 163.125 (1) (b)  and §§ 127.800 – 127.995	Criminal homicide constitutes manslaughter in the second degree when a person intentionally causes or aids another person to commit suicide.  <b>Note:</b> The 'Oregon Death with Dignity Act' transformed the crime of assisted suicide into a medical treatment if the assistance is provided by a physician.
Pennsylvania	18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 2505	A person may be convicted of criminal homicide for causing another to commit suicide only if he intentionally causes such suicide by force, duress or deception, and A person who intentionally aids or solicits another to commit suicide is guilty of a felony of the second degree if his conduct causes the suicide or an attempted suicide, and otherwise of a misdemeanor of the second degree.
Puerto Rico	Law of P.R., Title 33, § 4009	Every person who deliberately permits, aids, advises, encourages or coerces another to commit suicide, if the death was consummated or attempted, shall be punished by imprisonment for a fixed term of three (3) years. Should there be aggravating circumstances, the fixed penalty established may be increased to a maximum of five (5) years; if there should be extenuating circumstances, it may be reduced to a minimum of two (2) years. The court may impose the penalty of restitution in addition to the penalty of imprisonment established, or both penalties.
Rhode Island	R.I. Gen. Laws §11-60-3  and R. I. Gen. Laws	An individual or licensed health care practitioner who with the purpose of assisting another person to commit suicide knowingly provides the physical means by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide; or Participates in a physical act by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide is guilty of a felony and upon conviction may be punished by imprisonment for up to ten years, by a fine of up to ten thousand dollars or both. and The attorney general is empowered to seek an injunction

	§11-60-5	<p>against any person violating the provisions of the law on assisted suicide. The person who has been assisted or counseled in an attempt to commit suicide, may seek an injunction against all future unlawful assisted suicides by the particular individual who assisted or attempted to assist the suicide.</p> <p>A cause of action for injunctive relief under this section may be maintained by the attorney general against any individual or licensed health care practitioner who is reasonably believed to be about to violate or who is in the course of violating the law on assisted suicide.</p>
South Carolina	<p>S.C. Code § 16-3-1090 (B), (E), and (G) (1)</p> <p>and S.C. Code § 16-3-1090 (F) and (G) (1)</p>	<p>It is unlawful for a person to assist another person in committing suicide. A person assists in committing suicide if the person:</p> <p>by force or duress intentionally causes the other person to commit or attempt to commit suicide; or</p> <p>has knowledge that the other person intends to commit or attempt to commit suicide and intentionally provides the physical means by which the other person commits or attempts to commit suicide, or participates in a physical act by which the other person commits or attempts to commit suicide.</p> <p>A person who assists in a suicide is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than fifteen years or fined not more than one hundred thousand dollars, or both.</p> <p>The license or certification of a health care professional who assists in a suicide shall be revoked or suspended when the person is convicted, pleads guilty of nolo contendere.</p> <p>and</p> <p>Injunctive relief may be sought against a person who it is reasonably believed is about to, or who is in the course of, committing assisted suicide.</p> <p>The license or certification of a health care professional shall be revoked or suspended if the person is found in contempt of court for violating the injunction.</p>
South Dakota	S.D. Codified Laws § 22-16-37	Any person who intentionally in any manner advises, encourages, abets, or assists another person in taking or in attempting to take his or her own life is guilty of a Class 6 felony.
Tennessee	Tenn. Code § 39-13-216 (a) & (g)	<p>A person commits the offense of assisted suicide who :</p> <p>Intentionally provides another person with the means by which such person directly and intentionally brings about such person's own death; or</p> <p>Intentionally participates in a physical act by which</p>



	and Tenn. Code § 39-13-216 (e) & (f)	another person directly and intentionally brings about such person's own death; and Provides the means or participates in the physical act with actual knowledge that the other person intends to bring about such person's own death; and the clear intent that the other person bring about such person's own death. Assisted suicide is a Class D felony. and Civil action for damages against any person who assists or attempts to assist suicide may also be brought.
Texas	Tex. Penal Code § 22.08	A person commits an offense if, with intent to promote or assist the commission of suicide by another, he aids or attempts to aid the other to commit or attempt to commit suicide. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless the actor's conduct causes suicide or attempted suicide that results in serious bodily injury, in which event the offense is a state jail felony.
Utah	Undetermined	The state does not recognize common law and does not have a statute regarding assisted suicide. (5)
<a href="#">Vermont</a>	Common law	Common law is based on principles, customs and case law, rather than on a specific statute.
Virgin Islands	V.I. Code Title 14, § 2141	Whoever deliberately aids, advises or encourages another to commit suicide shall be imprisoned not more than 5 years.
Virginia	Va. Code § 8.01- 622.1	Any person who knowingly and intentionally, with the purpose of assisting another person to commit or attempt to commit suicide provides the physical means by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide or participates in a physical act by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide shall be liable for damages and may be enjoined from such acts. The injunction shall prevent the person from assisting any suicide in the state. A spouse, parent, child or sibling of a person who commits or attempts to commit suicide may recover compensatory and exemplary damages in a civil action from any person who provided the physical means for the suicide or attempted suicide or who participated in a physical act by which the other person committed or attempted to commit suicide. A licensed health care provider who assists or attempts to assist a suicide shall be considered to have engaged in unprofessional conduct for which his certificate or license to provide health care services in the state shall

		be suspended or revoked by the licensing authority.
<a href="#">Washington</a>	Wa. Rev. Code § 9A.36.060  Initiative 1000, approved 10/4/08	A person is guilty of promoting a suicide attempt when he knowingly causes or aids another person to attempt suicide. Promoting a suicide attempt is a class C felony.  <b>Note:</b> The "Washington Death with Dignity Act" transformed the crime of assisted suicide into a medical treatment if the assistance is provided by a physician.
West Virginia	Common law	Common law is based on principles, customs and case law, rather than on a specific statute. (6)
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. § 940.12	Whoever, with intent that another take his or her own life, assists such person to commit suicide is guilty of a Class H felony.
Wyoming	Unclear	Wyoming does not recognize common law crimes and does not have a statute specifically prohibiting assisted suicide. (7)

(1) Alabama's definition of criminally negligent homicide may be sufficiently broad to encompass aiding, assisting, causing or promoting suicide. [Ala. Code § 13-6-1 & § 13-6-4]

(2) The District of Columbia refers to "the crime of assisted suicide" in its law related advance directives: "Withholding or withdrawing resuscitation from a patient in accordance with this chapter shall not constitute a suicide or the crime of assisting suicide." [D.C. Code § 7-651.13 (a)]

(3) Idaho's Medical Consent and Natural Death Act states, "This chapter does not make legal, and in no way condones, euthanasia, mercy killing, or assisted suicide or permit an affirmative or deliberate act or omission to end life, other than to allow the natural process of dying." [Idaho Code § 39-4514]

(4) Nevada's law regarding withholding or withdrawing medical treatment implies condemnation of assisted suicide: Noting the withdrawal of medical treatment, the statute states that it does "not condone, authorize or approve mercy-killing, assisted suicide or euthanasia." [Nev. Rev. Stat. § 449.670 (2)]

(5) Utah's Advance Health Care Directive Act states that it "does not authorize mercy killing, assisted suicide or euthanasia..." [Utah Code § 75-2a-122 (2)]

(6) The WV Health Care Decisions Act implies condemnation of assisted suicide. [W.Va. Code § 16-30-15]

(7) Wyoming's definition of criminally negligent homicide may be sufficiently broad to encompass aiding, assisting, causing or promoting suicide. [Wyo. Stat. § 6-2-107]