

List of Resources that Can Help Friends with Concerns about Decline and Death

The BYM Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues has been collecting resources that could be of use to individual Friends and their Meetings, in preparing for and dealing with issues around people's decline and their death. Below are a few of the more generally useful resources, with brief descriptions of how they might be used.

Many of these resources, and others, have been collected by the Langley Hill Friends' Meeting's Committee for Care and Clearness, in a 2018 publication, *Planning for, and Coping with, Decline and Death*. That publication, and its component parts and DC, Maryland and Virginia forms, is available online at http://langleyhillquakers.org/death_decline.aspx. Recently a few pages have been added with resources about Coronavirus deaths and green or natural burials. Physical copies may be requested at cost through the End of Life Committee, at jvsurr@gmail.com, although there will be some delay until the request is fulfilled.

Quaker Aging Resources, a joint effort of the New York and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings, has a helpful website at <http://www.quakeragingresources.org>, which helps with both normal aging and the end of life issues that are the focus of this list. One page in that Website, <http://www.quakeragingresources.org/death-and-dying/>, has additional resources relating to advance directives, slow medicine, hospice care, grief, green burial and other options, being present when friends are ill, end of life decision making and Quaker testimonies, and being with a dying person. Quaker Aging Resources and New York Yearly Meeting's ARCH produced in print a *Quaker Values and End of Life Decision Making Work Book*, available through ARCH or Google Books.

Given the social isolation of the current situation, especially for those who need medical assistance which could lead to death, it is helpful for those who care about the care they receive in emergencies, as well as those who might need to deal with a death in the family, to have their wishes put into a legal document, The American Hospital Association's Put It In Writing brochure, <https://www.aha.org/2017-12-11-put-it-writing> might have useful advice for these situations. *Five Wishes* is a form for advance directives to cover all contingencies, written in laymen's words, that can be used in most jurisdictions (including Virginia and Maryland) with the same effect as something drawn up by a lawyer. See <https://www.agingwithdignity.org/> or a corporate sponsor of that form.

The Funeral Consumer's Alliance, www.funerals.org, has local affiliates in most areas of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, as well as a national organization that seeks to provide useful information on decisions that survivors often have to make when a loved one dies.