



WASHINGTON DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

In order to utilize the Death with Dignity Act (DWDA), you must be a legal resident of Washington. Residency is generally defined as physical presence within the state combined with an intent to remain here. There is no minimum time limit before residency is established, and you can be a resident of multiple states at the same time. A person may move to Washington to use the DWDA, but she or he needs to convince the Attending (prescribing) Physician that she or he has established legal residency in order to use the DWDA.

The DWDA lists three possible ways to prove legal residency. A resident is not limited to these options and none of them is required, but it is good to have at least one or two of the following, if possible:

1. Rent or buy property (even one room in someone else's house) in Washington. Renting property requires funds and someone willing to rent. Make sure you get a written rental agreement to show the doctor, even if it's informal.
2. Get a Washington State driver's license or State ID. Instructions on getting a State driver's license can be found here: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/moving.html>. For a State ID card, instructions can be found here: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/gettingidcard.html>. You should take your prior ID and know your social security number.
3. Register to vote in Washington. You can vote only in one state at a time. Instructions on registering to vote can be found here: <https://wei.sos.wa.gov/agency/osos/en/voterinformation/Pages/RegistertoVote.aspx>. If you don't have a Washington ID, you have to register by mail or in person.

If none of the options listed above is possible, being within the State and having the intent to remain may be sufficient (depending on your physician). Evidence of this can be any evidence of intent to remain (e.g., transferring vehicle registration to Washington; having family in Washington; attending school in Washington; or claiming residence for tax, judicial, or other governmental purposes; or an affidavit written by you).