

End of Life Rhode Island

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End of Life RI (EOLRI) is a Rhode Island support and education collaborative for the emerging field of death doulas.

Our mission is to educate the public about the role of the death doula as well as to raise public awareness on death, dying, and the emerging end-of-life planning and support options in Rhode Island.

EOLRI is grounded in the woven experience of its members' skills, training and expertise. United by our life interests and profound experiences, we share a heart-centered dedication to doing death better. Both spiritual and secular practitioners, we are a resource and comfort to those facing the end of life.

Our skills are based in traditional and non-traditional death care, legacy work, holistic practices, rituals and ceremony. Rooted in compassion and open-mindedness, we share a commitment to meet each person where they are, knowing that each life and death is unique.

What is an end of life (EOL) doula?

A doula is a non-medical person trained to provide advice, information, emotional support, and physical comfort. An end of life doula, or death doula, accompanies a person as they are preparing to die, through death itself and after death.

Some of the ways doulas support:

Before Death

Conduct & record a dignity therapy session

This form of therapy gives a client chance to record meaningful aspects of their life and leave something behind that can benefit and comfort their loved ones in the future.

During Death

Facilitate family visitation

Aligned with a client's wishes, encouraging loved ones to spend time with the client can be profound for the living as well as the dying, as hearing is the last sense to go.

After Death

Assist in cleaning & dressing the body

If having the caregivers clean and dress the body is one of the client's wishes, a doula can lead those ready for the task.

*Companioning is about going into the wilderness of the soul with another human being; **it is not about thinking you are responsible for finding the way out.***

Dr. Alan Wolfelt, PHD