

# Terminal Illness (Relief of Pain)

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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- 1 Guidance: administration of pain relief to people who are terminally ill
- 2 Extent, commencement and short title



[AS INTRODUCED]

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# B I L L

TO

Require the Secretary of State to issue guidance about the application of the criminal law in respect of the administration of pain relief by healthcare professionals to people who are terminally ill; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## **1 Guidance: administration of pain relief to people who are terminally ill**

- (1) Within six months of the passing of this Act, the Secretary of State must issue guidance to—
  - (a) chief officers of police, and
  - (b) healthcare professionalsabout the application of the criminal law in respect of the administration of pain relief by healthcare professionals to people who are terminally ill. 5
- (2) The guidance must in particular include guidance about the application of the criminal law in cases where a healthcare professional administers pain relief to a person who is terminally ill shortly before the end of their life. 10
- (3) In preparing guidance under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult—
  - (a) people who are terminally ill and their families;
  - (b) healthcare professionals;
  - (c) the Director of Public Prosecutions;
  - (d) the Attorney General;
  - (e) the Welsh Ministers; and
  - (f) such other persons as the Secretary of State considers relevant.15
- (4) The Secretary of State may revise guidance issued under this section.
- (5) The Secretary of State must arrange for guidance issued under this section to be published. 20

## **2 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales.

- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Terminal Illness (Relief of Pain) Act 2024.



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*Presented by Sir Edward Leigh  
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