

TO: Associate Attorney
FROM: Supervising Partner
RE: Jasmine Dueñas, Death Doula Business Research

Client Questions:

Jasmine Duenas wants to open a death (end of life) doula business in Eugene, Oregon. She just finished a death doula course. As she is preparing to open her business, she needs to know about all the law regarding every aspect of the death process. In Oregon, death doulas help clients understand options at the end of life, including death with dignity. Based on my preliminary understanding, there are several issues involved: (1) Death with Dignity law and regulations; (2) laws regarding therapeutic use of psilocybin; (3) new burial processes such as human composting; (4) resources on creating advance directives; and (5) laws and regulations regarding hospice (this is a big topic but the client is mainly concerned with understanding generally about eligibility, covered services, and patient rights). You might identify other issues, but you should include resources on those five issues, at a minimum.

Many of these issues involve primarily Oregon law, but the client is interested in any federal law involved in these issues. For example, the death with dignity law was controversial and there were some federal challenges to it, I believe, as well as cases challenging assisted dying laws in other states. Also, she wants to know the status of psilocybin federally, in comparison to its status in Oregon. The hospice laws and regulations will have federal components, because of Medicare, I believe.

Research Assignment:

I need you to find secondary sources; federal, state, and local laws; federal and state cases; federal and state administrative law; and any federal and state legislative history materials for these issues.

Final work product: After you have done your research, please compile the information into a work product that is focused on the research resources and process.

Form: Some possible forms of the work product are a text document (research memo focused on identifying sources), video, narrated PowerPoint, extended outline, or detailed chart. If you have another form you would like to choose, please discuss your idea with me.

Content: Whichever form you choose, the work product should include the following information:

(1) clear identification of the source and citation (not just a hyperlink); I need to know the title, author, date, name of the journal (if relevant), etc. Some resources might be different from what you are used to, such as a blog, government website, or organizational website. The Blue Book or ALWD will give you a good idea how to cite these resources (I'm not going to be a stickler for format; the most important part is clearly identifying the source so I know what it is and can find it). You can include a hyperlink AFTER you provide all the identification information.

(2) where/how you found the source (such as the database or website that you used, and I can find the information on that website).

(3) a short summary of why the source is important and what it says.

Organization: The work product should be organized by legal issue, not by the type of source. For example, please do not provide a document with a heading that says "Secondary Sources" with a list of secondary sources, etc. The work product should be organized by the legal issues that you have identified (including the four preliminary issues I mention above), and then you can divide that issue into types of sources.

Weekly research updates: Because this is such a large project, each week, I would like you to provide me with a structured research log that documents the research you have done for that week. Please make it cumulative: just add to the same log each week so at the end of the research process, you have all your research information in one place; this will make completion of the final work product much easier.

In addition, I will have you do an informal reflection about your research for the week. You will have more information from me about this soon. This should only take you a couple of minutes and will help me understand what kinds of challenges and successes you have having with your research.