

Addressing End of Life Issues

September 20, 2019 CIC Forum

While we all know that our life will come to an end at some point in time, many of us avoid thinking about or discussing death and dying until a health crisis occurs and we are suddenly confronted with our mortality. When the reality of death and dying become an immediate concern we often discover there are a myriad of issues- medical, legal, spiritual, relational and emotional- that come into play. At the time of death, those who die do not have to deal with all of the issues that a death can bring; it's usually up to family members to make decisions and handle all the details that come with the death of a loved one. Our Current Issues Club has planned this End of Life Forum to encourage Sun City residents to address death and dying issues before a crisis occurs so our families will be prepared to manage all the concerns that a death can bring.

This End of Life Forum will focus on three aspects of death and dying- addressing medical issues via advanced directives and other communications with physicians, addressing legal issues in estate planning, and making arrangements in advance to address the spiritual and practical matters that death brings. We have invited three professionals who have years of experience addressing these issues to share their knowledge and advice about preparing for the eventuality of death:

Chaplain Elizabeth Powell is the Spiritual Care Specialist for Palliative Care, Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas.

Ms. Melissa Donovan is a licensed Texas attorney and the Director of Elder Law and Special Needs at The Wiewel Law Firm in Georgetown.

Rev. Bill Peterson is the Pastor of San Gabriel Presbyterian Church in Georgetown.

The format for this End of Life Forum will consist of three short, 10-12 minute presentations by each of our panel members on the end of life issues that they often encounter in their work and that they think would be helpful for families to address or have discussed, preferably before the crisis of dying or death has occurred. After they have given their presentations, we will have a 45 minute Question and Answer period for members and visitors to address particular questions or issues to our panelists. We will also have a number of resources available on the tables at the back of the room to provide some helpful direction in addressing death and dying with our family members, doctors, clergy, funeral directors, and others who we may want to know our desires when we die.