



Executive Director of Final Exit Network to Retire After Nearly Seven Years of Transformative Leadership

(TALLAHASSEE, FL, May 12, 2025) – Final Exit Network (FEN), the national nonprofit organization supporting the right to a peaceful and dignified death, announces the upcoming retirement of Executive Director Mary Ewert, who has led the national organization since 2019. Under her visionary leadership, FEN has significantly advanced its mission, expanded its reach, and strengthened its infrastructure to meet the growing needs of individuals facing end-of-life decisions.

“Serving as Executive Director has been one of the most meaningful and fulfilling chapters of my life,” said Ewert. “Throughout my tenure, I have witnessed the unwavering passion and resilience of our members, volunteers, and advocates. Together, we have advanced the conversation around the right to self-determination at life’s end and built a stronger, more visible Final Exit Network.”

When Ewert stepped into her role, she brought with her not only a deep personal connection to the cause—motivated by the ALS journey of her late husband, Craig, whose story was featured in the PBS *Frontline* documentary [The Suicide Tourist](#)—but also a commitment to operational excellence and compassionate leadership.

“Mary’s impact on Final Exit Network is immeasurable,” said FEN Board President Brian Ruder. “She brought heart, integrity, and a steady hand to a deeply complex and emotional mission. Her leadership has not only professionalized our organization but has also empowered thousands of people to understand and advocate for their end-of-life rights.”

Ewert’s departure comes as FEN is poised for continued growth. The organization remains steadfast in its mission to educate qualified individuals about their end-of-life options, including self-determined death, and to support them through that process with educational resources and a unique Exit Guide program.

“I leave with full confidence in the strength of Final Exit Network,” Ewert said. “The mission is more urgent than ever, and I know the dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and board members will continue to lead with compassion and courage.”

FEN’s Board of Directors has begun the process of identifying new leadership to build on Ewert’s legacy and guide the organization into its next chapter. As part of this planned leadership succession process, the board has retained [Peter Gray Executive Search](#) to conduct a nationwide search for a new Executive Director. For more information, please visit: petergraysearch.com/jobs.

For more information about Final Exit Network and its mission, visit www.finalexitnetwork.org.

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