



## **Final Exit Network Response to Boulder County, CO Indictments January 15, 2026**

The following press release came out on January 14, 2026, and summarizes an investigation involving Final Exit Network:

<https://bouldercounty.gov/news/press-release-district-attorney-secures-indictments-for-manslaughter-in-assisted-suicide-case-agreement-with-final-exit-network/>.

Final Exit Network (FEN) appreciates the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Boulder County District Attorney's Office to clarify legal boundaries and strengthen public understanding of end-of-life options in Colorado. We thank District Attorney Michael Dougherty and his office for engaging in a thoughtful and constructive dialogue that reflects a shared interest in transparency, public education, and understanding of the law.

We want to be clear: **Final Exit Network has not been charged with any crime**, and the individuals indicted in this case were **not Exit Guide Program clients and did not receive Exit Guide services from FEN**. The agreement referenced by the District Attorney reflects FEN's longstanding commitment to operating ethically, responsibly, and within legal limits. It does not alter our mission, our programs, or our core values. Rather, it reinforces what has always guided our work: education first, rigorous safeguards, respect for personal autonomy, and a clear understanding of the legal context surrounding end-of-life decisions.

We support the right of competent adults to choose the time and manner of their death. We do not know any details about Mildred "Milsy" Roller's death in this specific case, but fervently hope the choice was hers alone and free from any influence. It is legal to choose to end one's own life and it is legal to be with someone when they do. It is, however, illegal to provide any kind of physical assistance in a chosen death (suicide in legal parlance), such as purchasing equipment or assembling it for someone else - a fact we include in all our education efforts. While these laws are biased against the physically disabled, we and others are bound by them.

For more than twenty years, Final Exit Network has provided compassionate education to people seeking to understand their end-of-life options, so they may safely choose a peaceful death with dignity. Through written materials, discussion groups, workshops, webinars, and individualized support, FEN helps people learn how to plan responsibly, communicate clearly with loved ones and medical providers, and understand the choices that may—or may not—be available to them. We do **not** provide physical assistance and we do **not** supply equipment.

FEN's Exit Guide Program is built on one of the most rigorous ethical frameworks in the field. FEN's Exit Guide Program provides person-to-person education and support in planning a responsible self-deliverance to competent adults faced with intractable suffering from one or more medical conditions. Receiving guide support requires medical documentation, review by an interdisciplinary Medical Review Committee, multiple interviews with trained representatives, confirmation of mental capacity, and clear evidence that the individual is acting voluntarily and free from coercion. These safeguards exist to protect individuals, families, volunteers, and the public—and they are central to who we are.

We strongly support Colorado's End-of-Life Options Act and Medical Aid in Dying (MAID), which offers an important and compassionate pathway for certain terminally ill individuals. At the same time, many people who seek information from FEN do not qualify for MAID, including those facing dementia, or serious chronic conditions that cause profound suffering but do not meet the statutory definitions of terminal illness. Our role is to provide accurate information noting differences that are available "state by state," and compassionate conversation for those navigating these complex realities. **We remain unwavering in our mission: to educate and support people who want choice in dying.**

End-of-life decisions are deeply personal, emotionally charged, and legally complex. Moments like this can raise questions or concerns, particularly for volunteers, members, donors, and supporters who care deeply about the integrity of this work. We want to be transparent with our community and clear in our message: **ethics are not incidental to Final Exit Network—they are foundational.**

**To our volunteers:** thank you for your professionalism, care, and steadfast commitment to ethical practice.

**To our members and supporters:** thank you for your trust and belief in this mission.

**To the broader community:** thank you for engaging thoughtfully in conversations that matter.