

How to talk about death

Some people prefer terms such as 'passing' when referring to someone's death. But those who study grief and loss recommend the use of simpler language (e.g. 'death', 'dying') as a clearer way of acknowledging someone's loss.

At Hospice, we try to speak clearly about death and dying and the end of life.

Here's a quick how-to guide:

Passed / Passed away	died
Resting in peace, eternal sleep	died
Deceased / departed	died / dead
Lost her battle / lost her life / succumbed	died
Breathed her last	died
Battling / struggling	dying