

HOW HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS CAN REQUEST A MUSIC MINISTRY

The music that can be offered to **someone who is dying or who is in the last days of a terminal illness** is a beautiful final measure of relaxing, non-invasive comfort care.

In requesting a music ministry you will need to give us information in order for us to best serve the person who is dying. This information does not have to be written. It only needs to be given to us over the phone.

Let your patient and family know that this is a **volunteer** ministry. We are on call 24/7 but our ability to respond to a call is based on the availability of our volunteers. **It is best to tell them you will contact SFTJ to see IF we are available to come.**

TO REQUEST A MUSIC MINISTRY FOR A DYING PATIENT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL NEED TO BE PROVIDED FOR US OVER THE PHONE:

Patient's name

Is your patient under the care of a **hospice**?

Location of patient:

Please note: If a music ministry will be taking place in a private home, a caregiver must be present in the household during a music ministry.

Facility:

- room number
- phone number for the nurses' station
- Is there a door to your patient's room/bed that can be closed so that the sound of the music remains in just your patient's room?

Private home:

- address
- phone number
- directions
- primary caregiver's information:
 - name
 - phone number
 - relationship to your patient
- animals – any cats or dogs residing there?
- Is this a smoke free environment?

Patient's condition:

- actively dying or
- last days of a terminal illness
- Is your patient **suffering** with:
 - Pain
 - Restlessness or agitation

Responsiveness:

- Responsive – If so, is your patient at all combative?
- Unresponsive

Please note: If your patient is unresponsive or not of sound mind, the POA or medical surrogate for your patient must give verbal permission for a music ministry. If responsive and of sound mind, your patient needs to clearly understand and agree to a music ministry.

Disease:

Any **infectious disease** precautions?
If so, what PPE is required?

Devices:

Is your patient connected to **medical devices to monitor his/her vital signs**?

Patient's hearing:

- Normal, hard of hearing, or deaf
- Wears hearing aids
- Hears best on the left side or the right side

Touch

- Is your patient open to touch on the hand or is your patient more reserved?
- Could touch on the hand be painful for your patient?

Roommate

Does your patient have a **roommate**? If so, you must ask the roommate if he/she would have any objections to songs being sung to your patient. Let the roommate know the songs may possibly be hymns that will be sung very softly and slowly by two or three singers. If the roommate objects to this, you might see if the roommate would be willing to step out of the room during the ministry. The ministry lasts about 30 minutes. In cases of actual or potential conflicts with, or objections by the roommate, you, the facility staff, determine whether a music ministry should be planned or carried out.

Family Members and Scheduling

- Are there **any family members who are en route** and who wish to have some last few moments with your patient? If so, the person giving the consent for the music ministry

needs to be informed by you that music can often facilitate transition. Does this need to be scheduled after the family members who are en route arrive?

- Do **any family members desire to be present** for the music ministry? If so, will you be contacting the family with the time and date of the planned music ministry or do you want Songs for the Journey to do this? Please provide family contact phone number if Songs for the Journey is coordinating this.
- Is there a **preferred day or time of the day** for this music ministry that works best for the patient and the family? Whenever possible, Songs for the Journey will try to accommodate this.

Music Selection

The music that Songs for the Journey plays **should be the music your patient would like to hear.**

We offer:

- religious Catholic, Protestant or Jewish songs/hymns
- religious Gospel/Spiritual songs
- nondenominational music
- secular songs
- relaxing melodies

Please note: The fact that a patient has a church affiliation does not necessarily mean that a patient would desire to hear religious music. If a patient is finding comfort and enjoyment in religious music now, or if such was the case prior to the patient becoming unresponsive then the use of religious music as vigil music is appropriate.

If you, your patient's family or other healthcare professionals involved in the care of your patient cannot determine if the use of religious music is appropriate, we will be singing relaxing melodies or nondenominational/secular songs.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

569-1723 and 471-0590 (Leave a message at both numbers) You do not need to leave any patient information in a message, just state that you have an urgent request.