

Amanda: Married mother of two teenage children, recently diagnosed with cancer.

As she considers her situation, Amanda feels she is coping quite well. However she worries about those around her, specifically her husband and children and large extended family, who have had a very emotional response to her diagnosis. Due to this, she finds she is alone navigating through her decisions, not wanting to overwhelm others. Practical details needing attention and her ability to function normally keep Amanda occupied at present, but she knows that the response of her family will need to be addressed. She would like to rely on them and share her needs honestly as the future unfolds.

Amanda describes herself as a person who has always appreciated her small social circle. Her family and a close girl friend are her greatest supports. As a social worker, Amanda cares for the lives of others, and prides herself on her logical, organized and prepared approach to life. Control is not so much a constricting force for her, as a way to love and care for those around her and to lighten their burdens. In the days ahead, Amanda knows this control will be out of her hands and she would like to have assistance to bring her family on board as she prepares for the future.

With regards to the care team, Amanda would like support staff to outline and describe necessary medical decisions and treatment options, and provide insight on health care directives as she settles her personal affairs. Before addressing these concerns, she hopes for someone to assist as a mediator, to facilitate the process of acceptance for her family so she can peacefully concentrate on her steps forward.