

# How do we talk about this?

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**Names:** to discourage copycats, **don't** use the full name of the murderer. **Do** use the name of the victim.

**Sympathy:** as with any other murder, **do** humanize the victim. **Do** unequivocally condemn the murder. **Do** mourn the victim. **Don't** sympathize with the murderer.

**Be mindful of anti-disability bias:** **don't** imply that it is better to be dead than disabled, that disabled people experience a lower quality of life, or that we cause other people to suffer. **Do** use respectful language, and **do** consult with people with disabilities.

**Focus:** **don't** give the murderer a platform. **Do** center the victim.

**Don't** refer to filicide as mercy-killing.

**Don't** talk about services in the context of filicide.

**Do** be mindful of the potential for copycat murders:

- avoid using the killer's name or giving them a platform
- focus on the victim, and
- avoid grisly sensationalism.

**Do** write about filicide against a disabled victim the same way you write about any other filicide.