

MAKING FUNERALS MEANINGFUL IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

DESCRIPTION:

In this webinar, we review the restrictions on funerals and other death rituals in the COVID-19 environment and what these restrictions mean for families and communities. We explore the affects these changes have on the well-researched therapeutic value of funerals and offer suggestions of alternative rituals that may be helpful to the intimate network of the deceased.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

This presentation features experienced professionals offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to hear the experts talking and presenting. If you login for the live version of the program, you'll also have the opportunity to email or text the experts questions that they will discuss and answer during the program's Q & A session.

LIVE DATE:	April 3, 2020
TIME:	Noon to 1:30pm ET
ON DEMAND:	Available for 1 year; until April 2, 2021
LENGTH:	90 minutes
CEs:	1.5 hours for a wide variety of professional boards
CONTENT LEVEL:	The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field, but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.
TARGET AUDIENCE:	Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home or faith community environments

This program will be live on the air date, recorded and made available for on demand viewing. The recorded program will be available approximately a day after the live event.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view this online program, you will need a computer and screen, reliable internet access, and speakers. If you are showing to a large group, you will need a way to project on a large screen and a sound amplification system. Please test your system ahead of time to ensure you have the capabilities to view and hear the program, as HFA does not provide refunds on registration. Please be sure to test on the SAME equipment you will use on the day of the program viewing.

TEST LINK for Audio and Video:

http://eventcenter.commpartners.com/se/Meetings/BrowserTest_New.aspx?account.id=CommPart

Technical Questions? Please contact CommPartners at 1-800-274-9390 or via e-mail at: hospice@commpartners.com.

REGISTRATION / VIEWING INSTRUCTIONS:

Eventbrite registration is required to receive viewing instructions. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/making-funerals-meaningful-in-the-age-of-covid-19-tickets-100980070108>. An auto-generated email containing the viewing link will be sent after you register, which may end up in your junk folder.

The program will be recorded and available for on demand viewing at: <https://hospicefoundation.org/Education/Making-Funerals-Meaningful-in-the-Age-of-COVID-19>

Please email educate@hospicefoundation.org if you have any questions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Indicate ways that current restrictions on gatherings and travel may affect the therapeutic value of funerals—possibly complicating the grief of survivors;
 2. Discuss special issues that might arise regarding funeral practices due to death from COVID-19;
 3. Identify the psychological, social, and spiritual benefits of funeral services, describe practices that typically enhance the value of funeral services for mourners, and suggest ways those practices might be incorporated during the COVID-19 crisis; and
 4. List and evaluate alternatives for traditional funerals in times of travel restrictions and COVID-19.
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PROGRAM OUTLINE:

- I. The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Funerals (3 minutes)
 - a. Isolation, Restrictions, and Quarantines
 - b. Social Distancing and Social Support
 - c. Special Issues in COVID-19 Deaths
 - d. Effects on Grief
 - e. The Therapeutic Value of Funerals
 - II. Evaluating Alternative Options (35 minutes)
 - a. Limiting Access
 - b. Streaming Funerals
 - c. Postponing Rituals
 - d. Recording Rituals
 - III. Enhancing the Value of Funerals when a Funeral is Not Possible (35 minutes)
 - a. Personalization
 - b. Participation
 - c. Enhancing Social Support
 - IV. Question and Answer Session (17 minutes)
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CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS:

This program is valid for 1.5 hours of CE credit. CE credits are free and are available for 1 year, until April 2, 2021.

A complete list of board approvals for this webinar program is posted to HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must attend the entire 1.5 hour program. Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online, before the CE deadline (see above for specific

CE deadlines). In order to go online, attendees will need to enter in a Course Code, which is only provided at the end of the program. Attendees will also need to enter in their Site ID# (same as their Invoice # when they purchased the program). The online CE process includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary). Attendees will be able to choose the board they wish to receive credit from (from Hospice Foundation of America's list of board approvals*) and will then be able to print their CE certificate immediately after completing all CE requirements online (on HFA's CE site at educate.hospicefoundation.org).

*A complete list of board approvals for this webinar program is posted to HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org.

EXPERT PANELISTS:

Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, MDiv, is Senior Bereavement Consultant to HFA and recipient of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Death Education and Counseling. He serves as editor of HFA's *Living with Grief*® book series and its *Journeys* bereavement newsletter. He is a prolific author, editor, and lecturer; past president of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC); and a member and past chair of the International Work Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement (IWG). In 2018, the IWG presented Doka with the Herman Feifel Award for outstanding achievement in thanatology. He received an award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Death Education from ADEC in 1998. Doka is an ordained Lutheran minister and a licensed mental health counselor in the state of New York.

Brad Speaks is the owner of Speaks Chapels, a funeral and cremation provider in Eastern Jackson County, MO, and is a past president of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, the largest association of privately-owned funeral homes in the world. He currently sits on the board of directors of the national Funeral Service Foundation.

William Villanova is the President of Frank E. Campbell – The Funeral Chapel in NYC, the President-Elect of the New York State Funeral Directors Association and a recipient of the NFDA 2019 Pursuit of Excellence and Best of the Best Awards. William is a licensed Funeral Director in NY and CT and a Member of Hudson Valley Community College Mortuary Science Advisory Board. A leader in his profession, he has dedicated the better part of 30 years to implementing and promoting the highest standards in funeral service.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

Huibertha B. Mitima-Verloop, Trudy T. M. Mooren & Paul A. Boelen (2019) Facilitating grief: An exploration of the function of funerals and rituals in relation to grief reactions, *Death Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/07481187.2019.1686090](https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2019.1686090)

Kate Woodthorpe (2017) Family and funerals: Taking a relational perspective, *Death Studies*, 41:9, 592-601, DOI: [10.1080/07481187.2017.1325419](https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2017.1325419)

Walter, T., & Bailey, T. (2018). How Funerals Accomplish Family: Findings From a Mass-Observation Study. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030222818804646>

Paul C. Rosenblatt (2017) Researching Grief: Cultural, Relational, and Individual Possibilities, *Journal of Loss and Trauma*, 22:8, 617-630, DOI: [10.1080/15325024.2017.1388347](https://doi.org/10.1080/15325024.2017.1388347)

Our program Speakers are expert resources (see bios, above)

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SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA):

Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at educate@hospicefoundation.org or call 800-854-3402, or write to HFA, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20036.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Planners (Panelists and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES

Please contact Hospice Foundation of America (HFA)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Hospice Foundation of America
1707 L Street NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20036
educate@hospicefoundation.org
1-800-854-3402 toll-free
(202) 457-5811 phone
(202) 457-5815 fax

