

UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF FUNERALS FOR CHILDREN

PROGRAM INFORMATION



DESCRIPTION:

It is estimated that one in five children in the U.S. will experience the death of someone in their intimate network before they are 15 years old. Parents and guardians often struggle with the grief of their children from such losses, unsure of how to support them through their grief journey, particularly when they are grieving themselves. There is a widespread belief that children below a certain age (and this age is typically defined by the family, culture, and sometimes, reason for death) should not attend funerals because the experience would frighten them, harm them, or unnecessarily upset them. Yet child development and grief experts agree that funerals and other memorial events can provide a meaningful and healing experience for children, providing them with a way to understand death and celebrate the person they love. Attending a funeral and participating in it can be a positive experience for children of any age. However, children need to be prepared for a funeral, and they need to be supported during the experience. This program seeks to educate professionals who work with children, families, and guardians so that they can, in turn, educate families about the value of funerals for children.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

This educational program combines a moderated discussion, informative interviews, and additional complimentary learning materials. Some registered sites may choose to use this program as a community outreach/engagement event. For individuals or those who view the program but do not have an opportunity to participate in a post-program discussion, HFA will make four conference calls available with experts that will replace the group discussion. Times and dates are posted here: <https://hospicefoundation.org/HFA-Products/Value-of-Funerals>.

TARGET AUDIENCE:	Health professionals, psychologists, counselors, clergy, social workers, nurses, and other health care workers, educators, community members, parents and caregivers.
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.
RELEASE DATE:	June 30, 2019
ON DEMAND:	to registered organizations and individuals through June 29, 2020
LENGTH:	1.5 hours plus 30-minute local discussion (required for CEs)
CEs:	2 hours of credit for a wide variety of professional boards <i>*HFA's full list of professional board approvals is located at</i> https://hospicefoundation.org/hfa/media/Files/Board-Approvals_FuneralProgram2019.pdf

PROGRAM REGISTRATION AND FEES:

There is no registration fee for this program. Shipping fees for program materials is \$7.95.

Registration for each site (viewing location) includes online access to the program until June 29, 2020. Program materials (*optional*) include one DVD of the program, one pack of viewer guides for the audience, a poster to help promote the event, as well as online access to all support materials needed for hosting an event.

HOW TO REGISTER:

Online at:

<https://hospicefoundation.org/HFA-Products/Value-of-Funerals>

By phone at: 202-457-5811

By email, fax, or mail via editable PDF located at

<https://hospicefoundation.org/HFA-Products/Value-of-Funerals>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Understand the therapeutic value of funeral and memorial rituals and recognize the importance of and options for ritual regardless of whatever choice is made for the disposition of remains;
 2. Acknowledge that some choices such as cremation or non-traditional funerals may be confusing or troubling to children and develop ways of addressing concerns that may arise as children question and discuss such choices;
 3. Recognize the varied roles that counselors, clergy, celebrants and funeral directors may have in the funeral and discuss ways that they can both facilitate or complicate the grief of children and adults;
 4. Delineate the components of the varied concepts that children need to master in order to comprehend death and describe the ways that attendance at a funeral or memorial service may facilitate the mastery of these concepts;
 5. Describe three principles that should be applied in order to allow children to decide on whether and how they might be involved in the funerals of other family members or persons within their intimate networks;
 6. Describe options that might be offered to children to allow them to personalize their involvement in funeral rituals;
 7. Discuss the relationship between funerals and complicated grief, noting both the sensitivities that adults should exhibit in complicated grief situations such as sudden and traumatic loss as well as the ways that problematic funerals can trigger complicated grief reactions;
 8. Discuss interventive strategies that can be employed in problematic funeral situations that can include such issues as children being excluded from participation, rituals are unavailable, the child regrets earlier choices made; or the child or adolescent feels unsafe to attend;
 9. Define *therapeutic rituals* and indicate four types of therapeutic rituals that might further assist children in coping with death and loss.
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PROGRAM OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction (20 min)
 - A. The Value of Funeral Ritual
 - B. The Importance of Funeral Rituals for Children
 1. A developmental perspective
 2. Understanding the importance of ritual in children's understanding of death
- II. Preparing Children for Funerals (35 min)
 - A. Setting the Stage: The Value of Choice
 - B. Three Principles
 1. Information
 2. Options
 3. Support
 - C. Involving Children in Rituals: Options for Participation
- III. Therapeutic Ritual (25 min)

- A. The Role of Therapeutic Ritual
 - B. Types of Therapeutic Ritual
 - 1. Continuity
 - 2. Transition
 - 3. Reconciliation
 - 4. Affirmation
 - C. Creating Therapeutic Ritual
- IV. Conclusion (10 min)
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CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS:

Offering and publicizing the availability of CEs will help you attract interested learners. This program is valid for 2 hours of CE credit*; until June 29, 2020. The CE cost is \$10 per certificate.

*A complete list of professional board approvals is posted on HFA's website at

https://hospicefoundation.org/hfa/media/Files/Board-Approvals_FuneralProgram2019.pdf.

Nursing, social work, family physician, counselor, nursing home administrator, funeral director, and more board approvals are available.

Registered organizations will have web access to print an official Certificate of Attendance for this course. Note: The Certificate of Attendance is not accepted by professional boards.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must attend the entire 1.5-hour program, and 30-minute local discussion*. Partial credit is not awarded.

Participants must also complete the entire CE process online, before the CE deadline of June 29, 2020:

- 1 - Go to educate.hospicefoundation.org and create an account
- 2 - Enter the Course Code (Provided at the end of the program)
- 3 - Enter the Site ID (Same as your order number from your purchase of the program)
- 4 - Complete the exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above to pass (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary)
- 5 - Choose the board from which they wish to receive credit
- 6 - Fill out the evaluation form
- 7 - Pay for the certificate. (If your organization has arranged to pay for certificates, participants will enter the "Discount Code," provided to you, instead of entering payment information)
- 8 - Print or email your CE certificate immediately

*Social workers seeking credit from Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program will receive 1.5 continuing education credits. The 30-minute local discussion is not required and is not approved for credit for this board. HFA's full list of professional board approvals is located at

https://hospicefoundation.org/hfa/media/Files/Board-Approvals_FuneralProgram2019.pdf.

MODERATOR:

Frank Sesno

Frank Sesno is director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at the George Washington University. He is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and creator of Planet Forward, a user-driven web and television project that highlights innovations in sustainability. Inspired by his

mother's experience with Hospice, Mr. Sesno has hosted the Hospice Foundation of *Living with Grief*® program for 10 years. Mr. Sesno's diverse career spans more than three decades, including 21 years at CNN where he served as White House correspondent, anchor and Washington Bureau Chief. He has interviewed five U.S. presidents and thousands of political, business and civic leaders — ranging from Hillary Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Microsoft founder Bill Gates and broadcast legend Walter Cronkite. He has won several prestigious journalistic awards, including an Emmy, several cable ACE awards, and an Overseas Press Club Award. Mr. Sesno is a member of the board of trustees at Middlebury College, a member of the National Advisory Board for the Poynter Institute, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a board member at the National Council for Science and the Environment and at AmeriCares.

EXPERT PANELISTS:

Tashel C. Bordere, PhD, CT

Dr. Bordere is Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science and State Extension Specialist in Youth Development at the University of Missouri-Columbia where she teaches Childhood Death and Bereavement, Black Families, Adolescence and Young Adulthood, and Lifespan Development. She is past editor of *The Forum* (Association for Death Education and Counseling), past board member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, and past Chair of the People of Color/Multicultural Committee. Dr. Bordere has conducted numerous workshops, consultations, trainings and published works relating to diversity and resilience through loss, including her recent co-edited and co-written book (with Darcy Harris), *Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief*. Dr. Bordere was featured on NPR, "Teens and Grief," and in Hospice Foundation of America's "Living with Grief: Helping Adolescents Cope with Loss." Her research focuses on adolescent adjustment to death and loss, with emphasis on assaultive violence, homicidal death, coping and grief among African American youth. She also studies New Orleans death rituals. Dr. Bordere developed SHED Grief Tools to educate and equip teachers with tools to support youth coping with death and non-death loss in the context of school settings.

Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, MDiv

Dr. Ken Doka is a grief and bereavement expert who developed the concept of disenfranchised grief. A prolific author and editor on a wide range of grief topics, including grieving styles and the significance of ritual, Dr. Doka served as professor of gerontology at the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle (NY) for 38 years. As senior consultant to HFA for 25 years, he is author and editor for HFA's *Living with Grief*® book series, its *Journeys* newsletter, and numerous other books and publications, including his recently published *Grief is a Journey: Finding Your Path Through Loss*. Dr. Doka consults frequently with funeral service providers. An internationally-known lecturer on the topic of grief, he is a past president of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) and received its Special Contributions Award in the field of Death Education, and in 2019, he received ADEC's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a member and past chair of the International Work Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement. Dr. Doka is a mental health counselor, licensed in the state of New York, and he is an ordained Lutheran minister. He serves on the advisory board of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

William G. Hoy, DMin, FT

Dr. Bill Hoy has taught at Baylor University since the spring of 2012. He is widely regarded as an authority on the sociocultural history of funeral rites, the topic of his most recent book: *Do Funerals Matter: The Purposes and Practices of Death Rituals in Global Perspective* (Routledge, 2013). He brings nearly 20 years of clinical experience in palliative care to the Medical Humanities faculty, having directed pastoral care and bereavement programs at two

southern California hospices. From 1985 to 1995, Dr. Hoy served as a pastor in the Los Angeles area. Besides teaching at Baylor, he is a popular lecturer for groups of caregiving professionals around the United States and Canada, delivering about 40 keynote presentations and workshops every year. His books include *Guiding People through Grief* (Compass, 2007) and *Road to Emmaus* (2008). He has also authored more than 100 book chapters, educational pamphlets and journal articles over the last 25 years, including a chapter on African American celebrity funerals for a forthcoming book to be published by University of Quebec Press.

Denise Rollins, PhD, MA

Dr. Rollins is a master life coach, speaker and executive director of the Whole Heart Grief & Life Resource Center in Frederick, Maryland, where her team offers one-on-one coaching and group support services. She holds a doctorate in marriage and family therapy from Eastern University and a masters in thanatology from Hood College. Dr. Rollins has conducted workshops for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors and presented at the Association for Death Education and Counseling national conference. In addition, at the Gary L. Rollins Funeral Home in Maryland, she partners with her husband, Gary, in managing the business and providing aftercare services. She has more than 20 years of experience in corporate America, where her roles included training, human resources and diversity. Dr. Rollins' personal experience with loss changed her career path. She is author of *2Grieve 2Gether: A Journal from the Heart Helping Survivors & Supporters Navigate the Healing Process*, an autobiographical account of her own grief journey.

REVIEWERS:

Lynda Shand, CHPN, CNE, RN, PhD

Lynda Shand is *Associate Professor of Nursing*, The College of New Rochelle

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view the 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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES

Funeral Service Foundation www.funeralservicefoundation.org

Our program Speakers are all expert resources (see biographies above)

Schonfeld, D. and Demaria, T. (September 2016). Supporting the Grieving Child and Family. In *Pediatrics*, Vol. 138, Issue 3.

Palmer, M., Saviet, M., and Tourish, J. (Nov/Dec. 2016). Understanding and Supporting Grieving Adolescents and Young Adults. In *Pediatric Nursing*, Vol. 42, Issue 6.

Hume, K., Regan, T., Megronigle, L., and Rhinehalt, C. (2016). Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder Through Grief and Loss. In *Council for Exceptional Children* (Jan. 6, 2016).

McNiel, A. & Gabbay, P. (2018). *Understanding and supporting bereaved children: A practical guide for professionals*. New York: Springer Publishing.

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CE Credits for this program may only be obtained through HFA. CE instructions will be provided to the registered contact for your organization prior to the live air date and to attendees at the end of the program.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA):

Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at educat@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

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