

## SUPPORTING ADULT CHILD LOSS



### DESCRIPTION:

The impact of the death of an adult child on parents is often overlooked, especially when the parents may be older or facing health challenges themselves. Experts will discuss current research; how hospice clinicians and bereavement professionals can better support grieving parents; and the use of life narratives as a way of coping.

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### 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.

<b>LIVE DATE:</b>	June 10, 2025
<b>TIME:</b>	Noon to 1:30pm ET
<b>ON DEMAND:</b>	Available for 1 year; until December 10, 2025
<b>LENGTH:</b>	90 minutes
<b>CEs:</b>	1.5 hours
<b>CONTENT LEVEL:</b>	The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.
<b>TARGET AUDIENCE:</b>	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.**

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### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view the program, you will need a computer and screen, reliable internet access, and speakers.

TEST LINK for live program Audio and Video: <https://zoom.us/test>

**Technical Questions?** Please go to <https://zoom.us/> and click “support”

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### PROGRAM FEES/REGISTRATION:

**Registration includes continuing education and on-demand viewing for 6 months from live date.**

#### Single Webinar Registration

Individual Viewer: Member: FREE | Non-member: \$35.00  
Organizational Viewing: Member: FREE | Non-member: \$135.00

Register directly online, on HFA's website: <https://www.hospicefoundation.org>

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

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

- Describe the experiences of bereaved parents
  - Identify the unique aspects of parental grief after the loss of an adult child.
  - Identify the existential challenges faced by parents who have lost an adult child.
  - Describe strategies addressing the existential needs of parents facing adult child loss
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## PROGRAM OUTLINE:

### **Patricia Moyle Wright – Parental Bereavement (45min)**

- Introduction of the issue of parental bereavement (10 minutes)
- Research approach, recruitment, interviews (10 minutes)
- Results (15 minutes)
- Conclusions (5 minutes)
- Q & A (5 minutes)

### **Rebecca Shiner – Existential Issues in Parental Loss (45min)**

- Parental loss in developmental perspective: Existential issues faced by parents who have lost an adult child (10 minutes)
  - Research on the narratives of bereaved parents (10 minutes)
  - Addressing the existential needs of parents facing adult child loss: self-compassion, social connection, narrative identity, and meaning (15 minutes)
  - Conclusions (5 minutes)
  - Q & A (5 minutes)
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## CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS:

This program is valid for 1.5 continuing education contact hours. CE hours are available for 6 months, until December 10, 2025.

A complete list of board approvals for this webinar program is posted to HFA's website at [www.hospicefoundation.org](http://www.hospicefoundation.org) on the program's registration page.

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## 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 which includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary).

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## EXPERT PANELISTS:

**Rebecca Shiner, PhD**, is Charles A. Dana Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Colgate University, where she has taught since 1999. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1998 and completed her clinical internship at the University of Rochester Department of Psychiatry in 1999. She has published widely on multiple topics relevant to grief: coping with trauma and stress; life narratives and their role in making meaning out of suffering; regulation of negative emotions; managing uncertainty; and resilience. She is currently completing a study on post-traumatic growth and life narratives in bereaved parents. She was included in Princeton Review's *Best 300 Professors* and teaches courses at Colgate on therapy, psychological disorders, happiness, and resilience in the face of suffering and adversity. She has recorded an audiobook, *How to Find the Right Therapy: Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, Family Counseling, and Other Treatments*

*That Work*. Most important for this presentation, she is a bereaved parent herself; her young adult son Leo died by suicide in 2022. She hopes to offer insights from her scholarly expertise, her own experiences, and her work with other bereaved parents to help others best support parents who have experienced the loss of an adult child.

**Patricia Moyle Wright, PhD, MBA, MSN, CRNO, ACNS-BC, CNE, CHPN, CPH, FPCN**, is a Professor of Nursing at The University of Scranton and practices as a palliative care and hospice nurse practitioner. She conducts research on end-of-life care, including grief, loss, and bereavement. She has published numerous articles and books on end-of-life care.

#### **REVIEWER:**

**Angela Novas, MSN, RN, CRNP, ACHPN**, *Senior Medical Officer*, Hospice Foundation of America

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#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:**

Gamino, L. (2025). *Working with Bereaved Parents: A Practitioner's Guide*. Routledge.

Jones MT, Albanese E, Boles JC. "They were here, and they still matter": A qualitative study of bereaved parents legacy experiences and perceptions. *Palliative Medicine*. 2023;37(8):1222-1231. doi:10.1177/02692163231180926

Pelacho-Rios, L., Bernabe-Valero, G. The loss of a child, bereavement and the search for meaning: A systematic review of the most recent parental interventions. *Curr Psychol* 42, 25931–25956 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-022-03703-w>

Schoonover KL, Prokop L, Lapid MI. Valuable Informal Bereavement Support Strategies for Bereaved Parents of Stillborn, Young Children, and Adult Children: A Scoping Review. *Journal of Palliative Care*. 2022;37(3):381-400. doi:10.1177/08258597211062762

Wright, P. M., & Farrell, M. (2023). Parental Bereavement in Older age: A Qualitative Descriptive Study. *Illness, Crisis & Loss*, 32(4), 574-585. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10541373231158755> (Original work published 2024)

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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](mailto:educate@hospicefoundation.org) or call 800-854-3402, or write to HFA, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20036.

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#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

Planners (Panelists and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity. None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.

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**FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES**

**Please contact Hospice Foundation of America (HFA)**

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