

## Ethical Considerations in Bereavement Care

### Bereavement Professional Chat Box Transcript

February 1, 2017

**NHPCO Staff:** Hello Everyone! Here is the link to chat slides:

<http://my.nhpc.org/viewdocument/ethical-considerations-in-bereaveme?CommunityKey=191c46b6-05de-4f1d-8e1e-dca744cc7879>

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** American Counseling Assoc., for those trained as counselors

**Deborah Pausig, LMFT, CT from North Haven, CT:** I am a MFT, Marriage and Family Therapist; we are governed by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. AAMFT.org

**Leonard B. Rigsby from Jasper, AL:** I'm a chaplain, but in Alabama. We're not licensed to any board as of yet. (Sorry I'm not much help) :(

**Diane Snyder Cowan from Cleveland:** Thank you Leonard.

**Brandon:** ADEC-Certified in Thanatology.

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** Also, there is the Assoc. of Professional Chaplains.

**Robin Fiorelli from San Diego:** Many chaplains have the ACPE standards of conduct or Healthcare Chaplaincy Network may have some?

**Mary Holland from Portsmouth:** From National Association of Catholic Chaplains:

<https://www.nacc.org/docs/certification/NACC%20Standards%20October%202013.pdf>

**Diane Snyder Cowan from Cleveland:** Thank you Mary Holland.

**NHPCO Staff:** If you are getting your audio through the computer and would like to ask a question by phone, dial 323-920-0091, Access code 862 3670#, then press \*6 to unmute when you are placed in the conference.

**Anonymous:** As an LPC, I must use a Professional Disclosure Statement approved by my Board.

**Anonymous:** It's reviewed by our legal dept.

**Anonymous:** Required in NC.

**Anonymous:** Not agency.

**Anonymous:** Must submit it to renew license.

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** The recent discussions on the list have made me appreciate that my company is a large national company with a very proactive legal department, which would have addressed any of these informed consent questions.

**Brandon:** When starting a grief support group what consent forms should you have in place?

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** Re: surveys...if the bereaved mentions the survey, I only encourage the family to fill it out, not how to fill it out.

**Kelly from Cleveland:** Does anyone have a copy of a sign-in sheet?

**Brandon:** Thank you.

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** As far as I'm aware, our company doesn't require any sort of consent for the group.

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** especially true when it's a nurse speaking about the risk.

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**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** One or two other professional staff members who don't see the boundaries the way I do....practicing outside our scope of practice. First to speak privately to that individual, then escalate the conversation up the chain of supervision, all the way to the company's Manager of support services.

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** We have noted that this doesn't always fix the problem, but we keep at it.

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** You're welcome.

**Holly Farmer from Mishawaka, IN:** We had a client that was outside our scope after supporting her through her grief. She was resistant to the referral. We were patient with her resistance initially trying to help her through it, but then had to let her know that given that her current issues were outside our scope of practice, we couldn't schedule her again. I reviewed the American Counseling Assoc. Code of Ethics to verify we were acting ethically.

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** Absolutely against company policy, I cannot accept or I could lose my job. We suggest the Memorial Fund as well.

**Holly Farmer from Mishawaka, IN:** Thank you!

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** OMG! That happens so often!

**Leonard B. Rigsby from Jasper, AL:** Good example. Happens to this chaplain all the time!

**Meredith English from Hospice of St. Mary's:** Almost all my community phone calls!

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** We instruct the caller to have their loved one call in. Cold calls by counselors just aren't appropriate. I agree with you absolutely, Sarah.

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** Right on, Sarah. Often, the caller is the one with the issues.

**James Ellis from Northern Kentucky:** One of our grief counselors just sends a note card stating our availability, call if you desire help.

**Mary Cicola from Indiana, PA:** How would where you handle the situation where a patient leaves money to a hospice nurse in his or her will?

**Kisha Davis from Monroe, LA:** You mentioned memorial funds. How do you notify families of it?

**Meredith English from Hospice of St. Mary's:** It happened at our hospice where they left money in will. Very tough situation.

**Kisha Davis from Monroe, LA:** How do you let families know that they could even donate to the fund?

**Merrie MacHose, M.A.:** Brochure on Fund is included with every Admission Packet

**Kisha Davis from Monroe, LA:** Thank you!

**Wes Sturgis from Charlotte, NC:** Great chat - thanks Sarah & Diane!