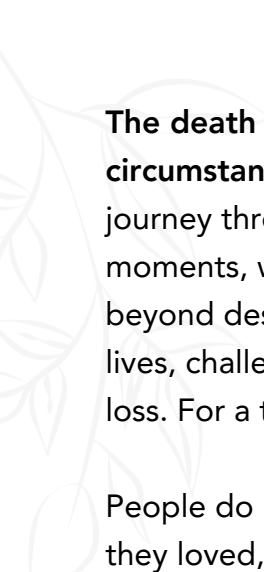




Guide to Grieving Support Resources in Collier County

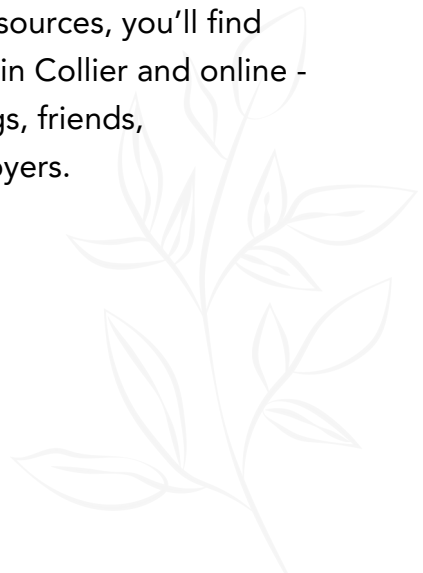


The death of a loved one – at any age, from any circumstance – is one of life’s cruelest blows. The journey through this grief is long and difficult. In the early moments, we may find ourselves overwhelmed by pain beyond description. It can be tough to live our everyday lives, challenging to think about anything other than our loss. For a time, even happy memories may bring us pain.

People do not simply “get over” the death of someone they loved, nor can they “snap out of it,” as the outside world often expects. This loss is not an illness from which we recover. It is a life-altering event that forces us to rebuild our lives - and the lives of our families - in a world that no longer includes our loved one.

Remember, you are not alone in experiencing profound loss and grief. The grieving process can be made a little easier with support. A variety of grief support resources are available, many of which can be accessed online.

In this Guide to Grieving Support Resources, you’ll find some helpful grief-related resources in Collier and online - for children, parents, spouses, siblings, friends, acquaintances, coworkers and employers.





Collier County Community Memorial Programs

Avow Butterfly Releases

Avow Remembering memorial services
(239) 261-4404

The Compassionate Friends Southwest Florida Chapter
Candle Lighting “. . .because you need not walk alone. . .”

Second Sunday of December
info@tcfswfl.org and 239-690-7801

NCH Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition

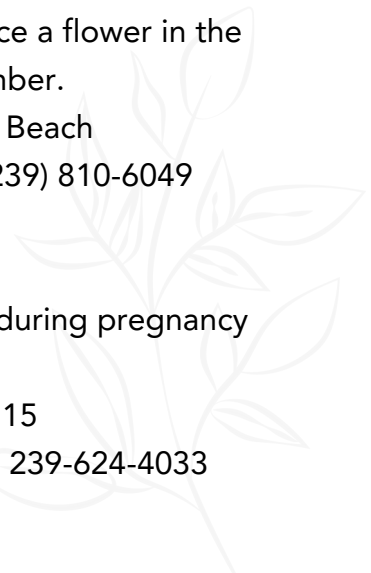
Twins Tot Walk and Vigil to remember the children who
have lost their lives due to drowning.
Second Friday of January
safehealthychildren@nchmd.org and 239-624-4033

Grief Help Near Me

For bereaved moms and children—place a flower in the
water to honor and remember.
Mother's Day at Lowdermilk Beach
greifhelpnearme@gmail.com and (239) 810-6049

Wave of Light

A global event that honors babies lost during pregnancy
or infancy.
The evening of October 15
safehealthychildren@nchmd.org and 239-624-4033



Guide to Grieving Support Resources in Collier County

Avow and Avow Kids

Offer support services for children and adults coping with grief and loss. Available to anyone in the Southwest Florida includes support groups, individual counseling, children's camps, memorial events, and community outreach. For children, grief and loss may stem from a variety of life changes—not just the death of a loved one or pet, but also divorce, incarceration, deportation, military deployment, instability in the foster care system, or any other significant transition in their lives. 239-261-4404 | bereavement@avowcares.org | AvowCares.org | avowkids.org - No Cost

The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends is a peer-to-peer Group. Their Chapter has two meetings a month. They also provide individual phone support, again peer to peer. Local 239-690-7801 | National 1-877-969-0010 info@tcfswfl.org, tcfswfl.org | Compassionatefriends.org - No Cost

Grief Help Near Me

Compassionate, support for individuals and families navigating all types of loss. Services include one-on-one grief sessions for children and adults, bereavement and post-loss support, LEGO brick-based therapy, and postpartum respite care. In-person and virtual options available. Serving SWFL | 239-810-6049 | griefhelpnearme@gmail.com

Hope Healthcare

Our unique Bereaved Mom's group provides a safe haven for mothers and grandmothers who have experienced the loss of a child or grandchild. You will feel heard and understood, as your fellow group members have walked your path. Feel supported and accepted. 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 11AM, held virtually. Advanced Registration Required. 239-985-7716 | lorrie.mccann@hopehcs.org

Project HELP, Inc.

Project HELP provides free and confidential individual and group advocacy and counseling services for those impacted by the sudden or traumatic loss of a loved one.

239-649-1404 24/7 Crisis Helpline: 239-262-7227

projecthelp@projecthelpnaples.org, Projecthelpnaples.org - No Cost

Guide to Grieving Support Resources in Collier County

Matty's Corner | Local Stillbirth Support Group

You, as a parent, are not alone. We are here to provide a safe and supportive environment for bereaved parents who have experienced the loss of a child through stillbirth. We offer monthly, in-person meetings where you can connect with others who have gone through a similar journey. Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7pm. We are sorry we had to meet this way, but we are glad you're here. Please visit rememberingmatty.com for more information and how to join our peer support group.

Surviving After a Suicide Loss

(Support group of Project H.U.G.S.) For over 30 years their free weekly peer run Suicide Survivor Support Group offers a safe place for members to share their grief and to receive and provide mutual support. 239-253-6600 | info@survivingafterasuicide.com
Survivingafterasuicide.com - No Cost

Valerie's House

Valerie's House is a special place where children connect with one another and gain tools to heal after they have experienced the death of a loved one. In a warm, home-like setting, children and their caregivers receive support and realize that they are not alone. Through peer support groups, workshops, and individual therapy, Valerie's House children and families find comfort and discover that loss doesn't have to limit their dreams. Services are for children 4-25 and their parents or guardian. 239-204-5804 | info@ValeriesHouse.org
ValeriesHouse.org - No Cost

VITAS Healthcare

VITAS provides bereavement services including support groups, newsletters, national bereavement events, brief phone support & Facebook Bereavement Group to caregivers, family members & friends of VITAS patients and members of the community experiencing grief. All services provided at no cost 239-649-2300 | VITAS.com

Guide to Grieving Support Resources Online

Bereaved Parents of the USA

This national, non-profit self-help group offers many resources for bereaved parents to help them rebuild their lives.

bereavedparentsusa.org

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation

Families don't have to face childhood cancer without support. The Childhood Cancer Foundation provides emotional, educational and practical assistance for families in need.

candle.org/family-services

CJ First Candle

This organization provides bereavement support to families who have suffered the loss of a baby from SIDS, SUID or stillbirth.

firstcandle.org_

GriefShare

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

griefshare.org

Parent Grief Support Directory

Find a wide array of local, national and international grief support resources for grieving parents.

live-evermore.org

MISS Foundation

For families who have experienced the death of a child, find grief resources and online support forums which are fully moderated for safe, caring interactions with others.

missfoundation.org_



Guide to Grieving Support Resources Online

Perinatal Hospice and Palliative Care Resources for Parents

These resources are for parents who have been told by medical professionals that their unborn baby will likely die before or after delivery.

perinatalhospice.org/resources-for-parents

The TEARS Foundation

This non-profit organization offers compassionate financial assistance to grieving parents who have lost a baby and need to make final arrangements.

thetearsfoundation.org

The Compassionate Friends

Supporting families after a child dies. This non-profit organization exists to provide friendship, understanding, and hope to those going through the natural grieving process.

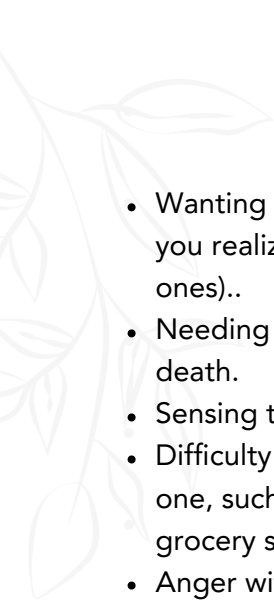
compassionatefriends.org



What You May Experience as a Newly Bereaved Person

After a loss, it's natural to experience a wide range of emotions - some of which may feel overwhelming or even frightening. These feelings are a normal part of the grieving process. Here are some emotions and experiences you may encounter:

- Profound sadness.
- Crying all the time or at unexpected times.
- Extreme physical exhaustion, or a manic energy.
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping all the time.
- Lack of appetite, or overeating, often accompanied by weight loss or weight gain.
- Anxiety, often manifested in overprotective behavior toward surviving family members.
- Denial of the loss.
- Inability to concentrate, frequently misplacing items and forgetting things.
- A deep longing and emptiness, feeling that nothing has meaning.
- Intense questioning: "Why??" "If only I had....?" "Why didn't I...?"
- Looking for blame and blaming yourself or others.
- Anger with yourself, family members, medical personnel, God, even the deceased.
- Fearing that you are mentally ill or unstable.
- Physical symptoms such as heaviness in your chest, difficulty breathing, tightness in your throat, yawning, sighing, gasping or even hyperventilating (do not hesitate to see a doctor for symptoms that concern you).
- Inability to function at work.
- Increased intensity of, or sudden loss of, religious faith.

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- Wanting to die (a feeling that usually subsides over time as you realize the value of staying present for other loved ones)..
 - Needing to tell and retell the story of your loved one's death.
 - Sensing the presence of your loved one in an odor or touch
 - Difficulty in everyday tasks that remind you of your loved one, such as seeing their favorite foods on the shelves when grocery shopping.
 - Anger with yourself if you smile or laugh and wondering how you can feel happy when your loved one is dead.
 - Feeling as though your spouse or other family members don't understand your grief or are not grieving as you think they should.
 - Losing old friends who don't seem to understand your pain and grief.
 - Making new connections with people who have also experienced the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild.
 - Feeling "stuck" in an aspect of grief such as denial or anger.
 - Feeling as though your work through grief is "one step forward, two steps back" or proceeding in a completely random way.
 - Frustration with others who expect you to be "over this" in a specific time frame – perhaps even frustration with yourself if you feel you should have "moved on."

10 Ways to Help Yourself with Grief

1. Let Others Help You
 - Tap bonds with friends, teachers, and counselors
 - Trust others to help
 - Share feelings and pain
2. Remember It's Normal to Feel What Seems Abnormal
 - It is common to feel that you're 'going crazy'
 - Personal disorganization is common
 - Anger and fear will be present
3. Express Thoughts and Feelings
 - Words are most helpful and least harmful
 - Crying is healthy - it is okay to dry
 - Do no fear losing control
4. Do Not Try to Avoid Grief
 - Avoiding grief adds misery
 - Lean into your feelings
 - Grief postponed is acceptance postponed
5. Reach Out
 - Sharing is our responsibility
 - Do not assume others know what you need
 - Choose to be healed
6. Helping Others
 - Memorialize
 - Do more than expected
 - Volunteer
7. Rise Above Bitterness
 - Bitterness displaces blame
 - Grudges deplete energy
 - Forgive self and others
8. Expect to Regress
 - Grief is erratic
 - Special times can be hard
9. Maintain Physical Strength
 - Have healthy eating and sleeping habits
 - Run, play, and participate in sports
 - Find ways to relax
10. Deal With Your Needs and Immediate Problems
 - Decide what your needs are
 - Seek healthy ways to meet your needs

3 Important Truths About Grief

Hold these three important ideas in your mind as you walk this unfamiliar and challenging path:

There are no timetables for grief.

The bereaved do not process through “stages” in an orderly and predictable fashion. No one will be “done” with grief; by contrast, you will process the grief individually and at your own pace, folding it into your life in a way that becomes more manageable over time.

Grief must be addressed.

This grief cannot be avoided, ignored, or put away. You must go through it in order to emerge on the other side. As much as you may not be able to believe it now, your grief will shift and become less all-consuming as time goes by, and you will smile and find joy again. But right now you must follow your instincts and allow your heart, mind and body to grieve.

Grieving requires patience and acceptance.

Grief work from the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild is a slow process. Be gentle and patient with yourself and your family. Allow yourself to cry, to grieve, and to retell stories as often as needed and for as long as you need to. You will never forget your loved one; he or she will be with you in your heart and memories for as long as you live



NCH Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition of Collier County

Phone: 239-624-4033

Email: safehealthychildren@nchmd.org

Website: SafeHealthyChildren.org

Address: 1100 Immokalee Road, Naples, Florida, 34110