

**Dr. Lisa Caraway Oliver, EdD**

Expert Consultant in Trauma, Grief, and Bereavement

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## **METHODOLOGY STATEMENT**

### **I. Overview of Expert Methodology**

My methodology integrates established behavioral science, grief and bereavement theory, trauma-informed care principles, adult-learning frameworks, and clinical chaplaincy practices. It is non-therapeutic, non-diagnostic, and educational-interpretive.

### **II. Foundational Theoretical Frameworks**

My analyses draw upon Attachment Theory (Bowlby), Continuing Bonds Theory, Dual Process Model of Grief, Meaning Reconstruction, Complicated Grief indicators, trauma frameworks (Van der Kolk, Polyvagal Theory), Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Bowen Family Systems Theory, and cultural grief models.

### **III. Data Collection Methods**

I gather information through trauma-informed, semi-structured client interviews; review of medical records; review of narratives, timelines, and family histories; and examination of documents relevant to the death, trauma, or loss.

### **IV. Analytical Process**

My interpretive process includes identifying grief and trauma patterns, applying theoretical frameworks, analyzing family and cultural factors, assessing risk indicators, and integrating findings into structured expert summaries.

## **V. Deliverables**

I provide written expert summaries, affidavits, timeline analysis, grief impact interpretation, attorney consultation, and deposition or trial testimony. All deliverables specify sources reviewed, methodology applied, findings, and limitations.

## **VI. Professional Limitations & Boundaries**

I do not diagnose mental health conditions, provide therapy, or determine legal liability. My role is strictly educational, interpretive, and consultative.

## **VII. Qualifications Supporting Methodology**

Doctor of Education (EdD) specializing in death and dying; ACPE Level 2B Clinical Chaplaincy certification; trauma-informed training; hospice/palliative educator; published author; experienced consultant and presenter.

## **VIII. Summary**

My methodology blends research-based grief theory, trauma-informed interviewing, clinical chaplaincy practice, adult learning analysis, and cultural/family-systems awareness to provide courts with an evidence-grounded understanding of grief and trauma responses.