

Certified Child Life Specialists

Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS) who are certified by the Association of Child Life Professionals, operate under the supervision of a licensed mental health provider. They qualify as mental health treatment providers and are eligible for reimbursement from the California Victims of Crime Program. - Assembly Bill 1187 (2023)

"Here is what we know about the future, it is a result of what we do today."

-Anonymous



Bureau of Victim Services
Admin (800) 380-3811

Family Violence Division
(213) 257-2185



Trauma & Grief Informed Services for Child & Teen Survivors of Fatal Family Violence

Who Can Receive Services?

Victims/Witnesses

Children, teens, and young adults traumatized by fatal family violence, either as a victim or witness.

Non-Witnesses

Children, Teens, and Young adults not present during a fatal or violent family crime but are negatively affected.

The Impact of Childhood Trauma

- Research shows early trauma negatively affects brain development, cognition, behavior, mental health, relationships, emotions, and physical health. (Barlett & Steber, 2019)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) is a tool to assess and define negative events of childhood which have been shown to result in higher incidences of concerns related to health, mental health, and the legal system.
- According to The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, children continually exposed to traumatic events are more likely to develop traumatic stress reactions.
- Providing support and age-appropriate explanations about death and traumatic loss can facilitate understanding, provide hope, and develop resilience.
- Grief support can help emotional healing and restoration leading to healthy lives for generations to come.



How Child Life Specialists Help Children and Teens

Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS) provide specialized trauma and grief support based on Child Development theories. CCLS are Grief-bereavement trained, providing family support, trauma/grief counseling and medical expertise in addition to:

- Home visiting sessions
- Private setting sessions
- Coping and expressive interventions
- Accompanying and supporting child or family to related environments (foster placement, court, funeral, jail, etc.)
- Providing support to legal guardians
- Acting as family's liaison for school and community

