

Dr. Lisa Caraway Oliver, EdD

ACPE-trained Chaplain | Adult Educator | Consultant
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PROFILE

ACPE-trained chaplain (Association for Clinical Pastoral Education) and educator with Level I trauma hospital experience, specializing in grief, bereavement, and end-of-life education. Holds a Doctorate in Adult Education and advanced clinical chaplain formation, with expertise in trauma-informed educational engagement across healthcare, legal, and community settings. Focus areas include grief trajectories, complex and cumulative grief responses, family-systems dynamics, trauma impacts, advance-care conversations, and end-of-life decision-making. Available for consultation, case review, educational interviews, written analyses, and expert testimony.

CORE EXPERTISE

Clinical Expertise

- ACPE-trained clinical chaplain with Level I trauma hospital experience
- Grief, bereavement, and end-of-life care in acute and high-stress medical settings
- Complex, cumulative, and disenfranchised grief responses
- Grief trajectories across illness, crisis, and death
- Family systems dynamics during medical crisis and end-of-life decision-making
- Trauma impacts on cognition, communication, and emotional regulation
- Advance-care planning and goals-of-care conversations
- Interdisciplinary collaboration within healthcare environments

Educational Expertise

- Doctorate in Adult Education with advanced clinical chaplain formation
- Trauma-informed educational engagement across healthcare, legal, faith-based, and community settings
- Design and facilitation of grief and end-of-life education programs
- Adult-learning-informed instructional design and curriculum development
- Educational interviews and professional training
- Translation of clinical and trauma concepts for non-clinical audiences

Legal & Consultative Expertise

- Case review and consultation related to grief, trauma, and end-of-life issues
- Written analyses and professional summaries
- Expert testimony informed by clinical chaplaincy and adult education frameworks
- Consultation for attorneys, organizations, and community groups on grief and trauma impacts
- Ethical considerations in end-of-life decision-making and care processes

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Life-Transitions Consultant & Educator – Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC

Provide grief-focused consultations, death-and-dying education, and trauma-informed client interviewing for individuals, families, and organizations. Draft interpretive summaries integrating behavioral science, chaplaincy insights, attachment theory, and trauma responses. Support attorneys with case analysis involving death, bereavement, and emotional impact.

Clinical Chaplain Resident – Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (Level I Pediatric Trauma Hospital)

Provide spiritual care, crisis intervention, and family-systems support during life-threatening injury, critical illness, or traumatic death. Work with the interdisciplinary team to integrate spiritual assessment and anticipatory-grief perspectives into comprehensive family support.

Clinical Chaplain Intern – Grady Healthcare (Level I Adult Trauma Hospital)

Provided bedside support, acute grief intervention, and spiritual care during high-intensity medical and trauma situations.

Educator & Program Developer

- Independent Educator & Facilitator, the Hospice Foundation of America and the Pennsylvania State University “Let’s Talk” program
- Community educator, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Fayette County Library Systems
- Co-Leader, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Life-Transitions Education Ministry
- Guest Lecturer, Florida State University — Death & Dying: Not Only for People, Pets & Plants

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL FORMATION

Doctor of Education (EdD), Adult Education

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Dissertation: *How Do Caregivers Learn? Exploring the Informal Learning of Hospice Care Professionals*

Research Foci: Death and dying; emotion work; informal learning

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)

Level I-B, II-A, II-B

Arthur M. Blank Hospital, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Level I-A

Grady Health System, Atlanta, GA

About the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE): ACPE is the primary accrediting body for professional chaplaincy education in the United States. Its nationally recognized, graduate-level clinical formation model prepares chaplains and spiritual care providers for trauma-informed, ethically grounded, and culturally responsive engagement with individuals, families, and interdisciplinary teams navigating illness, crisis, grief, loss, and complex life transitions.

SERVICES AT A GLANCE

- Trauma-informed chaplaincy, education, and consultation grounded in Level I trauma hospital experience and advanced adult education.
- Grief, bereavement, and end-of-life support for individuals and families
- Consultation addressing complex and cumulative grief responses
- Family systems support during medical crisis and end-of-life decision-making
- Advance-care planning and goals-of-care conversations
- Grief, trauma, and end-of-life education for professional and community audiences
- Trauma-informed care training and facilitated learning sessions
- Case review related to grief, trauma, and end-of-life issues
- Written analyses, professional summaries, and educational interviews
- Expert testimony informed by clinical chaplaincy and adult education frameworks

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Oliver, L. C. (2022). *Final Wishes: A Workbook for Planning a Funeral* (2nd ed.). Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. ISBN-13: 978-0578366746 (ISBN-10: 0578366746)

Peer-Reviewed articles

- Watkins, K. E., Ellinger, A. D., Suh, B., Brenes-Dawsey, J. C., & **Oliver, L. C.** (2022). *Further evolving the critical incident technique (CIT) by applying different contemporary approaches for analyzing qualitative data in CIT studies. European Journal of Training and Development, 46(7-8), 709-726.*
<https://doi.org/10.1108/EJTD-07-2021-0107>