Suicide Loss Survivor Support

Compiled by Suicide Prevention Coalition of Jefferson, Clear Creek, and Gilpin Counties

You have experienced a loss that is truly unique to you.

You do not need to walk this journey alone. This packet was developed by professionals and survivors to provide guidance in locating support groups, professionals, and individuals who can help. Give yourself permission to handle your grief and mourning in your way. The journey will bring high and low points, intense emotions, and uncertainty at times. Questions about what has happened, where you can find support, and what comes next.

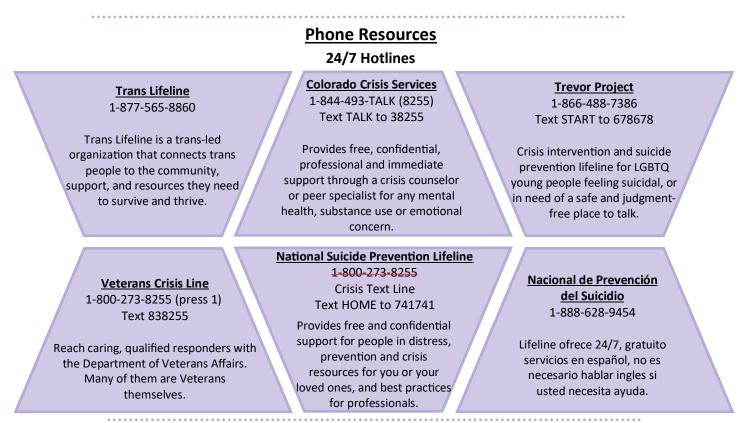
Our hope is the information compiled will assist you and those around you in finding exactly what is needed during this time and in the future.

Reach out to friends. Reach out to your support. Just reach out.

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Suicide Loss Survivor Resources

The following phone, online, print and in-person resources have been compiled through numerous community organizations by the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties to bring comprehensive support to those who have experienced a loss by suicide of a friend, family member, neighbor, loved one or community member.



Teleconference Support Group

First and Third Tuesday of the month 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Contact: Ethel Leslie 970-527-3284 eleslie15@gmail.com Pre-registration for each teleconference support group meeting is required

Online Resources

Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado

www.suicidepreventioncolorado.org

SPCC's membership of concerned agencies, organizations and individuals who are working in the areas of suicide prevention, intervention and postvention has statewide reach.

American Association of Suicidology

Suicide Loss Survivors Page

www.suicidology.org/resources/suicide-loss-

survivors/

support during this painful time.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Loss Survivor Page

www..afsp.org/ive-lost-someone

This site offers information for survivors such This page can help you travel through the grief answers to frequently asked questions, resources, of a loved one and offers tips and resources for personal stories, and a program for connecting to other survivors vis phone.

Alliance of Hope

www.allianceofhope.org

This organization for survivors of suicide loss provides information sheets, a blog, and a community forum.

Dougy Center

www.dougy.org

This resource provides support in a safe place where youth and their families grieving a death can share their experiences with resources, books, trainings and more.

Email suggestions to suicideprevention@jcmh.org Page 3/6 Revised July 2021

In-Person Resources

Jefferson Center

Various Colorado Locations within Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties (303) 425-0300

Offers programs and services to foster recovery and resilience in children, adults and families struggling with mental health problems; including a suicide attempt survivor support group for adults. Please ask about all of our available services when scheduling an initial intake appointment. www.jcmh.org

Colorado Crisis Services Walk-In Center

4643 Wadsworth Blvd. Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 The Walk-in Crisis Center is open 24/7 and offers confidential, in-person crisis support, information and referrals to anyone in need. www.coloradocrisisservices.org

Support Groups

Please contact to confirm date, time, location and cost. Some groups are meeting virtually during COVID-19 distancing.



Additional in-person suicide loss survivor groups and resources available to residents of Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties

Heartlight Center Inc.

11150 E. Dartmouth Avenue Denver, CO 80014 720-748-9908 Organization providing grief support groups to the public, and grief education for professional and lay caregivers. Contact to learn more about support groups and educational opportunities <u>www.heartlightcenter.org</u>

The Hope Group

P.O. Box 22 Littleton, CO-80160 720-745-9252 Organization provides service in the field of suicide prevention, intervention and postvention peer support. Contact to learn more about in- person and virtual support groups, workshops and trainings. www.hope-group.org

<u>Judi's House</u>

1741 Gaylord Street Denver, CO 80206 720-941-0331 Organization devoted solely to providing research-based care to grieving children and their families. Contact to learn more about services and guidelines regarding when services are appropriate. www.judishouse.org

Camps for Youth

Please contact to confirm appropriate ages, date, time, location and cost.

Onward Bound Various Locations <u>www.outwardbound.org/</u> group-programs/grieving-teens

Camp Comfort Georgetown, CO

www.mtevans.org/camp-comfort

Camp Erin Idaho Springs, CO <u>www.shimmeringwings.org/</u> <u>camp-erinreg-denver</u>

Print Resources

The following recommended books are available through Jeffco Public Library. Contact your local library to learn about other <u>recommended books</u> available to borrow.

Life After Suicide Author: Jennifer Ashton <u>I Was Here</u> Author: Gayle Forman SPCC iCARE Package Visit the following site to request an iCARE Package

including two books, a journal, and more. www.suicidepreventioncolorado.org/icare-packages/

Suicide Loss Survivor Support: Supporting Me

Survivors, share this with the people around you. They want to support you; this may help them know how.

The following information has been compiled through several resources by the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties.

Do be present.

Surviving a suicide loss can sometimes feel isolating. Just be there with the survivor and continue to offer support in the weeks and months to follow a loss.

Do help embrace grief. Grief looks different for each survivor. Grief is not something to move through or get over, but rather to embrace as a representation of love.

Do help with daily tasks when it is wanted.

Don't take over the survivor's tasks or responsibilities, but you could offer to help with chores, straightening mail, etc.

Do reassure that all feelings are normal. Survivors feel a wide range of emotions. Remind them that how they're feeling is perfectly normal.

Do speak the name of the person who died. Often times the survivor will welcome the opportunity to reminisce.

Do connect to resources. Help the survivor connect to peer support, counseling, resources and local events. Do be patient. This is likely the most difficult time in the survivor's life. Be patient with them and continue to reach out and be available.

Do remind about the importance of self-care. Self care looks different for each person. Remind the survivor to take care of themselves in a way that works for them.

Do not place judgement.

Avoid judgment in any form. Do not judge the survivors emotions and grief, and do not judge the person who has died by suicide.

Do not assign blame. Many survivors blame themselves for the loss. Help survivors to deflect this blame and avoid asking questions that may assign blame. Do not speak in clichés. Refrain from using common statements such as "everything happens for a reason."

Do not offer unwelcome advice. Aside from reminding the survivor to do basic self-care, try to avoid direct advice-giving. There is no one right or wrong way to cope with a suicide.

As a person supporting a survivor, take care of yourself!

Self-care is different for everyone, so be sure to take care of yourself in whatever way is best for you! Remember that you can't take care of someone else unless you have taken care of yourself.

Suicide Loss Survivor Support: Supporting Me

"Suicide Survivors Bill of Rights"

by JoAnn C. Mecca

- 1) I have the right to be free of guilt.
- 2) I have the right not to feel responsible for the suicide death.
- I have the right to express my feelings and emotions, even if they do not seem acceptable, as long as they do not interfere with the rights of others.
- 4) I have the right to have my questions answered honestly by authorities and family members.
- 5) I have the right not to be deceived because others feel they can spare me further grief.
- 6) I have the right to maintain a sense of hopefulness.
- 7) I have a right to peace and dignity.
- I have the right to positive feelings about the one I lost through suicide, regardless of the events prior to or at the time of the death.
- I have the right to retain my individuality and not be judged because of the suicide death.
- 10) I have the right to seek counseling and a support group to enable me to honestly explore my feelings to further the acceptance process.
- 11) I have the right to reach acceptance.
- 12) I have the right to a new beginning.
- 13) I have the right to be.