

Grief and Loss Across the Lifespan, Second Edition: A Biopsychosocial Perspective

By Judith L. M. McCoyd PhD LCSW QCSW, PhD Carolyn Ambler Walter PhD LCSW



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This unique text for undergraduate and master's-level social work and counseling courses on loss, grief, and bereavement is distinguished by its biopsychosocial perspective and developmental framework. The book addresses grieving patterns and intervention strategies according to the life trajectory and provides clinical intervention tools and strategies for coping according to the developmental stage of an individual. It incorporates losses beyond death loss, with special focus on losses related to maturational development. The second edition reflects new research that has clarified and underscored the value of theories examined in the first edition, particularly in the areas of continued bonds, disenfranchised grief, and ambiguous grief. It describes how grieving is influenced by biological responses to stress, psychological responses to loss, and social norms and support networks.

The second edition includes significant new information on trauma and resilience and addresses the use of mindfulness practices with grief and loss. It focuses on the changing role of technology including expressions of grief and loss in social media and public forums. Updated information is provided regarding hospice and palliative care as well as housing issues in aging. A completely new chapter examines grief and loss counseling with emerging adults, and updates regarding changes in the *DSM-5* are included. Additional new features include chapter objectives, discussion questions, and updated resources, and an Instructor's Manual and PowerPoint slides are available for download.

New to the Second Edition:

- New information on trauma and resilience
- Using mindfulness practices with grief and loss
- · Updated theory and empirical findings
- The changing role of technology in grief
- Expressions of grief and loss in social media and public forums
- Transitions due to economic and health changes
- Changes in the *DSM-5*
- New chapter on emerging adults (ages 18-25)

- New information on hospice, palliative care, and aging
- Housing issues in aging and disability
- New information on issues facing young and older U.S. veterans and families
- Updated resources
- Chapter objectives and discussion questions
- Instructor's Manual and PowerPoint slides

Key Features:

- Uses a developmental framework for grief and loss
- Incorporates notions of loss beyond death, including unique maturational losses
- Integrates new grief theories with empirical findings and intervention techniques
- Utilizes neurobiological and biological information within a counseling text
- Focuses on nonpathologizing approaches to sadness, loss, and grief



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Editorial Review

About the Author

Judith L. M. McCoyd, PhD, LCSW, QCSW, is an Associate Professor at Rutgers University—School of Social Work, teaching in the Advanced Clinical curriculum and working with both the PhD in Social Work and DSW doctoral programs. She worked in perinatal, emergency room, and oncology settings during her active practice life before academia and continues to maintain a small private practice with perinatal and end-of-life care as specialties. She is coauthor of *Grief and Loss Across the Lifespan: A Biopsychosocial Perspective* (2009) and coeditor (with Toba S. Kerson) of *Social Work in Health Settings: Practice in Context* (3rd ed.—2010). She presents at national and international conferences such as Council on Social Work Education, National Association of Perinatal Social Work, and the Interdisciplinary Conference of Social Sciences, and publishes in journals about perinatal decision making, technology and health care, societal aspects of bereavement, and social work education. Her research agenda involves exploration of the ways perinatal technologies impact the experience of child-bearing and bereavement when perinatal loss occurs.

Carolyn Ambler Walter, PhD, LCSW, is a Professor Emerita at the Center for Social Work Education at Widener University, Chester, PA. In addition to teaching part time at Widener, she has served as a mentor and instructor in the DSW program at University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice and maintains a private clinical social work practice. Dr. Walter is the coauthor of *Grief and Loss Across the Lifespan: A Biopsychosocial Perspective* (2009) and the author of *The Loss of a Life Partner: Narratives of the Bereaved* (2003). She is the coauthor of *Breast Cancer in the Life Course: Women's Experiences* and the author of *The Timing of Motherhood*. Dr. Walter has published many articles in professional journals on such topics as women's issues, grief, and social work education. Dr. Walter has also given professional presentations at state and regional hospice conferences throughout the United States, at Association for Death Education and Counseling, National Association of Social Workers, and Council on Social Work Education national conferences.

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