

Grief in the DSM-5: The Most Recent Diagnostic Guidelines

A review of the DSM across the decades reveals a complicated history of the inclusion and exclusion of grief-related emotional difficulties for bereft clients. Starting with the DSM-III, uncomplicated bereavement was introduced as a condition that may be the focus of clinical attention. As research on complicated grief progressed, changes in subsequent DSMs has led to controversy, extended research, and, eventually, the inclusion of prolonged grief disorder in the upcoming release of the DSM-5-TR in mid-2021. This 3 hour presentation explores the history of how bereavement has been addressed in previous and current DSMs and the ICD, an examination of the bereavement exclusion in major depressive disorder and adjustment disorder, the development and inclusion of persistent complex bereavement disorder in the DSM-5, and the diagnostic criteria for prolonged grief disorder in the DSM-5-TR and the ICD-11. Additionally, the presentation will explore differential diagnosing so the practitioner will be skilled in making sound clinical judgment in treatment planning.

Target Audience

Psychologists
Therapists

Social Workers
Psychiatrists

Counselors
Nurses

Course level: Intermediate

Learning Objectives

At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the history of how bereavement has been addressed in previous Diagnostic and Statistics Manuals (DSM).
2. Explain why the bereavement exclusion was removed from the diagnosis of major depressive disorder in the DSM-5.
3. Apply diagnostic criteria from the DSM-5 to diagnose uncomplicated and complicated bereavement.
4. Identify the diagnostic criteria for prolonged grief disorder and characterize how it relates to clinical practice.
5. Make accurate diagnoses of disorders related to grief.

Seminar Schedule

The webinar outline is attached. See the Live Webinar page for the start and end times.

Outline

Begin 10 AM ET

Grief in Previous DSM's

History of how bereavement has been addressed

Why changes were needed

Change in ICD-11

Prolonged grief disorder

Diagnostic criteria

Break 11:30-11:45 AM ET

Grief in the DSM-5: Changes and Diagnosis

Elimination of the bereavement exclusion criterion for major depressive disorder

Research regarding complicated grief

Persistent complex bereavement disorder in the DSM-5

How to diagnose complicated and uncomplicated bereavement using the DSM-5

A Look Ahead

Why Prolonged Grief Disorder in the DSM is needed in clinical practice

Proposed criteria

End 1:15 PM ET

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The Presenter

Christina Zampitella Psy.D., FT is a licensed clinical psychologist, Fellow of Thanatology, and founder and owner of The Center for Grief and Trauma Therapy. She often works as an adjunct professor and professional speaker, and especially enjoys training emerging mental health professionals. Dr. Zampitella is the host of her podcast, Phoenix Rising with Dr. Z. She focuses her clinical practice, research, course development, and teaching on bereavement studies, spirituality, nature-based therapy, and integrative psychology. She served as the chair for the Continuing Education Committee for several professional institutions and is an advisory board member of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). She is the former resident psychologist for Fox 5 News in San Diego, and often appeared on NBC News. She has been featured in Elle Magazine, BuzzFeed, The Huffington Post, New York Post, and several Delaware Magazines and newspapers. Dr. Zampitella happily lives with her husband, three-bonus sons, and three cats in Delaware.

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Laura Davie, LICSW, Tina Jenkins, Psy.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2028.

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