



THE CENTER FOR LOSS & HOPE

Participant Guide: Your Privacy and Consent

A shared understanding for compassionate, respectful grief support

At the Center for Loss & Hope, we understand grief as a natural response to loss. While every person's experience is unique, no one should have to carry grief alone. Our programs are designed to offer compassionate support, meaningful connection, practical education, and opportunities for companionship with others who understand the grief journey.

This guide explains what you can expect from us, what we ask of participants, and how we work together to create a safe and respectful community.

Our Commitment to You

We are committed to creating an environment where every participant is welcomed with compassion and respect. We will:

- Treat you with dignity, kindness, and respect.
- Honor the uniqueness of your grief.
- Foster a safe, inclusive, and supportive community.
- Protect your privacy to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- Encourage participation without pressure.

Welcome people of every background, culture, race, ethnicity, faith tradition, family structure, gender identity, sexual orientation, and life experience.

Our facilitators are trained grief specialists and certified volunteers who provide grief support and education. Our programs are not psychotherapy or medical care.

A Community Built on Trust

Grief support works best when everyone helps create an atmosphere of safety, respect, and belonging.

What We Ask of Participants

Adapting to the new situation loss has created and learning to carry your loss forward into your changed life happens best when everyone helps create an atmosphere of trust.

We ask participants to:

- Respect the confidentiality of others.
- Share only what feels comfortable.
- Listen with curiosity rather than judgment.
- Speak from personal experience rather than giving advice.
- Honor differences in beliefs, cultures, identities, and grieving styles.
- Help create a community where everyone feels welcome and respected.

Our facilitators are trained grief specialists and certified volunteers who provide grief support and education. Our programs are not psychotherapy or medical care.

Participation is always voluntary. You may choose to speak, listen quietly, or step away if needed.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Your privacy matters to us.

Information you share with Center for Loss & Hope staff is kept confidential except when disclosure is required by law. These situations include:

- Concern that someone may seriously harm themselves or another person;
- Suspected abuse or neglect of a child, elder, or dependent adult;
- A court order requiring disclosure; or
- Your written permission.

Because many of our programs involve groups, we also ask participants to respect one another's privacy. While we cannot guarantee that every participant will maintain confidentiality, we ask everyone not to repeat personal stories or identify other participants outside the group.

Clear Practices. Respectful Boundaries.

These shared practices help protect participants and support healthy relationships throughout our programs.

Communication

We may communicate with you by phone, email, text message, video meeting, or other electronic methods regarding your participation in our programs.

While we use reasonable safeguards, no electronic communication can guarantee complete security. We will guard your personal information from the public, but please use your own judgment when sharing highly personal information electronically.

Professional Boundaries

To maintain appropriate professional relationships:

- Staff and volunteers do not accept gifts of significant value.
- Staff do not provide transportation for participants.
- If you have concerns about your experience, we encourage you to speak with a facilitator, program leader, or the Director of the Center for Loss & Hope at 530.758.5566.

Additional Program Permissions

Some Center for Loss & Hope programs involve additional activities requiring separate permission forms. Examples include:

- Equine-assisted activities
- Athletic or outdoor programs
- Photography or video
- Creative projects such as personal grief books
- Research participation

Those permissions will always be explained separately and are entirely optional.

YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT

By participating in Center for Loss & Hope programs, I acknowledge that I have read this Participant Guide. I understand the nature of the services provided, the expectations for participation, and the privacy practices described above. I understand that participation is voluntary and that I may discontinue participation at any time.