



Certified Grief Counseling Specialist (CGCS) Certification Standards

1.0 Professional Standards

1.1 State or Nationally licensed as a (or equivalent if practicing outside of the United States):

- Psychologist
- Clinical Social Worker
- Certified Addictions Counselor
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Registered Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant
- Physician
- Certified School Counselor
- Ordained Clergy (submit documentation of ordination in place of a license)

OR: A Graduate student in a clinical mental health program who is in the process of or has completed the clinical supervision requirements for licensure.

Canadian Applicants: Licensed professionals who have met the licensure requirements for Provincial and Territorial Regulatory Bodies are welcome to apply. If you are unsure if your professional background meets the standards for Certification, please email us a copy of your educational background and CV to info@traumapro.net

UK Applicants: Senior accrediting members who are psychotherapists meet the standards for Certification. Being a BACP member and designation as a counsellor does not meet the standards for Certification.

1.2 The applicant in must:

- Be in good standing with the State or National Board or Organization that licenses him/her, including not being on probationary status for any reason.
- Not have been ethically or professionally denied application to or renewal of his/her professional membership in local, state or national associations to which he/she is qualified within the past 5 years.
- Not have had his/her professional or medical privileges restricted, revoked, or revised in any formal institutional setting (e.g., hospital, clinic or other clinical setting) based upon professional malpractice within the last 5 years.

2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The candidate must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 6 clock hours at a post-graduate level):

- Types of Grief and their implications for treatment/intervention, including:
 - Complicated grief vs. normal adaptive grieving, as defined in the DSM-5
 - Disenfranchised grief
 - Anticipatory grief
 - Persistent Complex Bereavement Disorder
 - Death vs. non-death grief
 - Loss of a parent, child, or spouse
 - Traumatic loss



- Intake assessment of grieving clients, including assessment for depression and suicide
- Interventions and strategies for grief therapy or counseling, including any of the following:
 - Kübler-Ross 5 stages of grief
 - Worden's Four Tasks of Mourning
 - Dual Process Model of Coping
 - Continuing Bonds Theory
 - Grief and Attachment Theory
 - Companionship Model of Bereavement
 - Doka's Rituals
- Differentiate between grief counseling vs. grief therapy
- The process of death, dying and mourning
- Regret, forgiveness, and reconciliation
- Special considerations for grief and loss across all developmental and life stages
- Multicultural and spirituality considerations
- Boundaries of professional competence
- Ethical considerations, including working with the terminally ill, minors, families and end-of-life decisions
- Self-Care for the grief professional

2.2 Examples of Educational sources include but are not limited to:

- Post-Graduate level coursework from an accredited college or university as documented by a copy of the course syllabus and a transcript showing completion of the course
- Approved Continuing Education as documented by certificates of completion from training organization

3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility

1. A copy of the candidate's license or graduate student status in the form of an unofficial or official transcript
2. Copies of completion of training as outline in the Educational Standards
3. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications, LLC will certify candidates who meet the above requirements.

Please note: Certification does not imply endorsement of clinical competency. As a licensed professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession's standards.

4.0 Required Documentation for Renewal of Certification

To maintain Certification, a reapplication is required. The steps to re-apply for a 1-year reapplication are as follows:

1. Submit, via email, a copy of your professional licensure as well as a completion certificate for six (6) clock hours of post-graduate level, grief-focused training to info@traumapro.net
2. Payment of re-certification application fee

You can also apply for reapplication for 2 or 3 years. Follow the process above, submitting twelve (12) clock hours of training for a 2-year reapplication, and eighteen (18) clock hours of training for a 3-year application.

Re-certification training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were last certified or recertified.