



Certified Advanced Grief Counseling Specialist Certification Standards
Application Standards for Practicing Professionals in Australia and New Zealand

1.0 Professional Standards

1.1 Nationally registered, credentialed, or member of the association noted:

- Registered Psychologist
 - Hold a general designation and/or with endorsement that aligns with the standards set by the Psychology Board of Australia
 - Hold a registration with New Zealand Psychologists Board AND hold a practising certification
- Registered Counsellor
 - Be a Level 2, 3 or 4 member of the Australian Counselling Association (ACA)
 - Be a full member of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors
 - Be a Clinical member of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA)
- Social Worker
 - Be a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers
 - Hold a Practising Certificate with the Social Workers Registration Board
- Psychiatrist
 - Be accredited by the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
- Credentialed mental health nurse
- Registered nurse practitioner
- Advanced practice nurse
- Doctor of Medicine
 - Hold a General or Specialist registration with the Medical Board of Australia
 - Hold a practising certificate and be registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand

For all professions: Provisional or student registration does not meet the standards for Certification.

Other applicants: Registered or credentialed professionals whose professional scope of practice allows them to diagnose and provide clinical mental health treatment plans for mental health disorders AND have met the registration or credentialing requirements in Australia or New Zealand are welcome to apply. If you are unsure whether your professional background meets the standards for Certification, please email a copy of your educational background, professional scope of practice, membership or registration and CV to info@evergreencertifications.com

1.2 By applying for Certification, the applicant agrees to adhere to Evergreen Certifications' Professional Code of Ethics, available at www.evergreencertifications.com/codeofethics

2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The applicant must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 18 CPD hours of training):

- Complete a minimum of 6 CPD hours at a post-graduate level in these areas (*current certification as a Certified Grief Counseling Specialist meets this requirement*):
 - Types of grief and their implications for treatment/intervention
 - Intake assessment of grieving clients, including assessment for depression and suicide
 - Interventions and strategies for grief therapy or counseling
 - 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
- Complete a minimum of 12 CPD hours of training in the following areas:
 - Interventions for death vs. non-death losses
 - Assessment and treatment of Persistent Complex Bereavement Disorder
 - Co-occurring disorders and differential diagnosis
 - Grief related to sudden death, including suicide loss or violent death
 - Assess for suicidal ideation & substance use as a coping mechanism
 - Interventions and strategies for coping with shame & stigma
 - Foster post-traumatic growth after suicide loss
 - Risk assessment for suicidal ideation & violence
 - Interventions and strategies for traumatic and/or complicated grief, including:
 - Challenges for the grieving process
 - Vicarious trauma
 - Generational trauma
 - Post-traumatic growth
 - Resilience
 - Grief and loss groups
 - Considerations for impact of loss on the family system
 - Ethical principles

2.2 Suitable education sources are approved professional development trainings as documented by certificates of completion from the accredited training organization.

Evergreen Certifications will accept courses that have been completed within 3 years of initial application for Certification.

3.0 Certification Client Work and Consultation Attestation

The applicant must attest that, over the course of their career, he/she has conducted a minimum of 200 therapy hours with grief clients. Additionally, the applicant must submit one letter of recommendation from a credentialed professional peer who is familiar with and can attest to the applicant's clinical grief counseling work.

4.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility

1. A copy of the applicant's professional registration, credential, or membership
2. Copies of completion of training as outlined in the Educational Standards
3. A signed application form with attestation that the applicant has met all the requirements as detailed herein
4. One letter of recommendation from a peer who can attest to the applicant's grief work
5. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications will certify candidates who meet the above requirements.

Please note: Certification does not imply endorsement of clinical competency. As a 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.

5.0 Required Documentation for Renewal of Certification

To maintain Certification, a renewal is required. After your initial 2-year Certification, you have the option to renew for 2 years. The steps to apply for a 2-year renewal are as follows:

1. Submit, via email, a copy of your professional licensure as well as a completion certificate for twelve (12) CPD hours of grief-focused training to info@evergreencertifications.com
2. Payment of renewal application fee.

Renewal training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were last certified or renewed. Renewals are calculated from the date that your Certification was issued.

If you allow your Certification to lapse for more than 3 years, you are no longer eligible to renew your Certification and instead can reapply for Certification.