



Certified Child & Adolescent Grief Counseling Specialist Certification Standards (CGCS-CA)

1.0 Professional Standards

1.1 State or Nationally licensed professionals as listed below AND completed all training hours and supervision requirements to be licensed for independent practice in the state they are licensed in (or equivalent if practicing outside of the United States):

- Psychologist (LP or LCP)
- School Psychologist
- Counselor
 - LCMHC
 - LCP
 - LCPC
 - LMHC
 - LPC
 - LPCC
 - LPCMH
- Social Worker
 - LCSW
 - LCSW-C
 - LICSW
 - LISW
 - LISW-CP
 - LMSW if licensed in Michigan or Nebraska
 - LMSW-ACP
- LSCSW
- Marriage and Family Therapist
 - LCMFT
 - LIMFT
 - LMFT
- Addictions Counselor (LCAS)
- Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC or LADAC)
- Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse Counselor (LCDP or LCSTP)
- Advanced Practice Nurse (APN)
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Physician's Assistant (PA)
- Physician (MD)
- Psychiatrist (MD)
- Psychoanalyst (LP)
- Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
- Ordained Clergy

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

International Applicants: Please check for a link to standards specific to your country of practice. If no link is available, please email us a copy of your educational background and CV to info@evergreencertifications.com

2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The candidate must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 12 clock hours at a post-graduate level):

- Types of grief and their implications for treatment/interventions with children and adolescents
- Intake assessment of grieving children and adolescents, including assessment for depression, suicide, and co-occurring disorders

- Differentiate between normal, complicated, prolonged, and traumatic grief in children
- Common grief and loss reactions in each stage of childhood development
- Interventions and strategies for grief therapy or counseling based on child's developmental level
- Death vs. non-death losses, including divorce
- The process of mourning for children and adolescents
- Working through loss of a parent or sibling
- Cognitive components of understanding grief in childhood
- The importance of using concrete terms in grief work with children
- The concept of magical thinking in childhood grief
- The role of attachment and continuing bonds in childhood bereavement
- Working through regret, forgiveness, and reconciliation with children and adolescents
- Considerations for impact of loss on the family system
- Factors influencing the grief process, including multicultural and spirituality considerations, nature and type of loss, and support system
- Boundaries of professional competence and ethical considerations for working with minors and families

2.3 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

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

3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility

1. A copy of the applicant's professional license
2. Copies of completion of training as outline in the Educational Standards
3. 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 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 apply for a 1-year reapplication are as follows:

1. Submit, via email, to info@evergreencertifications.com
 - a. A copy of your professional license
 - b. Completion certificate for six (6) clock hours of post-graduate level training in any of the following topics:
 - i. Grief and loss in children and adolescents

- ii. Depression in children and adolescents
 - iii. Suicide, suicide loss, suicidality, or self-harm in children and adolescents
- 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. 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.