



Certified Advanced Grief Counseling Specialist Certification Standards
Application Standards for Practicing Professionals in the United Kingdom

1.0 Professional Standards

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

Psychotherapist or counsellor

- Hold a full clinical membership with the UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP)
- Hold a full membership as a MBACP with a MA/ MSc in Counselling or Psychotherapy or MBACP-Senior Accredited or higher with the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP)
- Be a Senior Accredited Registrant (MNCS Snr Accred) or a Fellow Registrant with the National Counselling Society (NCS)
- Hold a Full Membership with the Association of Child Psychotherapists with a MA/ MSc in Counselling or Psychotherapy
- Hold a Full Membership with BABCP with a MA/ MSc in Counselling or Psychotherapy
- Hold a Registered Counsellor Membership with the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC) with a with a MA/ MSc in Counselling or Psychotherapy
- Be a COSCA or UK Body Accredited Member of the Counselling & Psychotherapy in Scotland (COCSA) with a MA/ MSc in Counselling or Psychotherapy

Psychologist

- Hold a registration as a Psychologist with the Health & Care Professionals Council (HCPC)
- Hold a full registration as a Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS)

Social Worker

- Hold a registration with the Health & Care Professionals Council (HCPC)
- Hold a Working or Independent Membership with the British Association of Social Workers (BASW)

Psychoanalytic and psychodynamic psychotherapists

- Hold a Full Membership with the British Psychoanalytic Council (BPC)

Play Therapist

- Hold a Full Membership with the British Association of Play Therapists with a MA/ MSc in Counselling or Psychotherapy

Mental Health Nurse

- Hold a Mental Health or Specialist Community Public Health Nurse registration with the Nursing & Midwifery Council

Nurse

- Hold an active registration with the Royal College of Nursing (RCN)

Medical Doctor

- Hold a Full, General or Specialist registration with the General Medical Council (GMC)

Psychiatrist

- Hold a Full, General or Specialist registration with the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCP)

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

Other applicants: Registered or credentialed professionals whose professional scope of practise allows them to diagnose and provide clinical mental health treatment plans for mental health disorders AND have met the registration or credentialing requirements in the UK are welcome to apply.

1.2 By applying for certification, the applicant agrees to adhere to [Evergreen Certifications' Professional Code of Ethics](#)

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 Certification Application Process

1. Submit the following documents:
 - a. A copy of the applicant's professional registration, credential, or membership
 - b. Copies of completion of training as outlined in the Educational Standards
 - c. A signed application form with attestation that the applicant has met all the requirements as detailed herein
 - d. One letter of recommendation from a peer who can attest to the applicant's grief work
2. 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 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 the following documents:
 - a. A copy of your professional registration, credential, or membership
 - b. Completion certificate for twelve (12) CPD hours of grief-focused training
2. Payment of renewal application fee.

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

If you allow your certification to lapse for more than 2 years, you are no longer eligible to renew your certification and instead can reapply for certification.