



**Certified Child & Adolescent Grief Counseling Specialist (CGCS-CA) 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
  - 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
  - Be a full member of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors
- 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 (NP)
- Advanced practice nurse (APN)
- Doctor of Medicine (MD)
  - 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. Coaches do not meet the standards for Certification, unless the Coach also holds a certification, registration or membership listed above.

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 if 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](mailto: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](http://www.evergreencertifications.com/codeofethics)

**2.0 Educational Standards**

2.1 The candidate must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 12 CDP hours of training):

- 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

2.2 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 CPD as documented by certificates of completion from training organization

### **3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility**

1. A copy of the candidate's professional registration, credential or membership
2. Copies of completion of training as outlined 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 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, a copy of your professional registration, credential or membership as well as a completion certificate for six (6) CPD hours of training on any of the following topics to [info@evergreencertifications.com](mailto:info@evergreencertifications.com)
  - a. Grief and loss in children and adolescents
  - b. Depression in children and adolescents
  - c. 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) CPD hours of training for a 2-year reapplication, and eighteen (18) CPD 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.*