



Certified Grief Counseling Specialist (CGCS) 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 Practicing 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
- Ordained Clergy (submit documentation of ordination in place of a license)

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 candidate must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 6 CPD hours):

- 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

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

3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility

1. A copy of the applicant's professional registration, credential or membership
2. Copies of completion of training as 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 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 registration, credential or membership as well as a completion certificate for six (6) CPD hours of grief-focused training to info@evergreencertifications.com
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.