

# Family Commitment Policies

## Attendance

- Families enrolled in Good Grief Peer-Support groups are committing to consistent attendance and are making an effort to attend their groups because they are aware that their participation/presence is an important characteristic of the peer-support model.
- A family is permitted four absences a year (a year is based on the academic model of September to June).
- If a family has multiple, consecutive absences the family will be asked to sign a “recommitment pledge.” This pledge states that Good Grief is a priority in the family’s life and that they are doing their best to be present, supporting their peers and themselves.

## Enrollment

- Families are considered “enrolled” participants after they have attended a family orientation, completed their paperwork, and submitted it to the Director of Family Services.
- Following a completion of the enrollment process families may participate in a Good Grief Night of Support.

## Family Assessments

- Family assessments occur during orientation to provide adequate support for a family and all its members.
- Families that need additional support or are not appropriate for Good Grief Peer-Support Groups will be given referrals to other support systems within the community.

## Participants Breach of Co-Participant’s Confidentiality

- Participants who breach another participant’s confidentiality will be assessed on an individual basis. A repeated inappropriate incident will lead to a departure and a referral to other support systems in the community.
- Good Grief will protect both the confidentiality and safety of all its participants.
- Adult groups are for caretakers of the participating children only.

## No Visitors

- Only enrolled Good Grief participants are allowed to participate in a group.
- Family members, friends, and guests are not permitted to observe or participate in groups.
- Guests are welcome to wait in the café or tea room of the Main House.

## Violent or Verbally Inappropriate Participant

- Good Grief will protect the safety of all its participants and volunteers by excluding violent, drunken, verbally combative or other persons that threaten the group's safety from its groups.
- Good Grief welcomes all emotions to its groups. Verbally combative and abusive language, however, is not acceptable. The participant will be spoken with by a staff member to determine if he/she is appropriate for peer-support groups.

## Respect Co-Participants

- Participants ought to respect their co-participants. Facilitators should create a safe space where such respect is openly named and discussed.
- Participants should not interrupt their peers, speak over them, or consistently comment on everyone's sharing.
- Hitting, spitting, or other mean-spirited physical contact is not permissible.