

VII. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Interview themes and example items

Parent Interview: Time 1

Theme	Example items
Demography	Let me ask you a few questions about your background (e.g., sex, age, race, religion).
Work and finances	What was your main source of income before the death? 1) My salary, 2) Spouse's salary, 3) Both incomes, 4) Other income.
Marriage	Tell me something about your husband/wife. How would you describe him/her?
Death event	Tell me, how did your spouse die? Cause of death: 1) Natural, 2) Accidental, 3) Suicidal, 4) Homicidal. What happened?
Funeral	What kind of funeral ritual did you have when your spouse died? 0) No funeral, 1) Only graveside committal, 2) Funeral - no wake/viewing, 3) Wake/viewing and funeral.
Stress and coping	Tell me about the problems that worried you and the pressures you felt initially. Can you describe what you did to cope with them? (Probe for behavior strategies).
Daily living	What has been the most difficult thing for you in keeping the family going?
Support	Who do you lean on most? A. First name. B. 1) Male, 2) Female, C. What is your relationship to this person? 1) Friend, 2) Sister/brother, 3) Mother/father, 4) Child, 5) Neighbor, 6) Professional, 7) Other.
Health	Tell me about any recent health problems you've experienced. 0) No health problems, 1) New health problems, 3) Flare-up of a chronic problem. Describe them.

Parent's Interviews: Time 2 and 3

Theme	Example Items
Looking at the past year/ two years	What has it been like for you since I last saw you? What has changed the most for you?
Work and finances	Have there been any changes in your work since we last talked? 0) No changes, 1) Stopped working, 2) Began working, 3) Job change, 5) Other. If there have been changes in work, describe what changed and when. What went into this decision?
Remembering the marriage	Tell me something about what your spouse was like. (Probe - get a sense of the relationship and what is lost). What is the most difficult about his/her being gone? What is the least difficult?
Deceased's presence	Who initiates discussions of your husband/wife? What do you talk about? (Probe to see if there is any discussion about feelings regarding the loss; or about things they did together; or about what he or she was like? Get them to give concrete instances so we can know what the nature of the conversation is).
Children	Are there things that you think worry or concern your children? (Check for each child).
Daily Living	I am interested in how things have changed since I last talked to you. Have there been changes in: 1. Mealtimes 2. Shopping, 3. Childcare, 4. House cleaning? 0) No, 1) Yes - Describe.
Stress and Coping	Do you think you are still grieving? 0) No, 1) Unsure, 2) Yes - Describe. Can you describe what you do to cope? (Probe for behavior strategies).
Support	Who do you talk to most about the death? What do you say to each other? Has your need for help changed in the past year? How?
Health	Tell me about any health problems you've experienced since I last saw you. 0) No health problems, 1) New health problems, 2) Flare-up of a chronic problem.

Child Interview: Time 1

Theme	Example Items
Demography	E.g., sex, current age, grade in school
Anticipated death	Did you know your parent was going to die? 0) No, 1) Unsure, 2) Yes, 9) NA. If yes, how long before she/he died did you find out?
Funeral	What stands out in your thoughts as you think about the funeral?
Current relationship to the deceased	How often do you think about your mother/father? 1) Every day, 2) Several times a week, 3) Not too often, 4) Never. Tell me about these thoughts.
School	How is school going? Has there been much change over the past year? 1) Better, 2) Worse, 3) The same - Describe.
Health	Have you been sick during the past year? 0) No, 1) Yes, mild, 2) Serious illness, not requiring hospitalization, 3) Yes, hospital required. If yes, what was wrong?
Friends	Do you have a best friend? If yes, tell me about him/her? Has this changed over the past year?
Home life	I am interested in how things at home have changed for you since your parent died. Have there been changes in: (e.g., household chores, arguments, mealtimes). 0) No, 1) yes - Describe.

Child Interviews: Time 2 and 3

Theme	Example Items
Looking at the past year/two years	What have been the biggest changes for you since your mother/father died? What has been the most difficult? What's been the easiest for you this past year?
Remembering the death	What do you remember feeling most at the time of the death? (Check sad, angry, afraid, confused, shocked, guilty). Do any of these words apply now? In what way?
Remembering the funeral (T2 only)	Looking back now, what do you remember about the funeral?
Cemetery and ritual	Have you gone to the cemetery in the past year? 0) No, 1) Yes. If yes, how often? If no, why not? (Probe for reasons).
Questioning (T2 only)	Some people ask: "Why did my mother/father die?" Did you ever ask that question? 0) No, 1) Yes.
Current relationship with deceased	Do you ever talk to the deceased? 0) No, 1) Yes. If yes, what about?
Identification	Do you think that you are like your mother/father? 0) No, 1) Unsure, 2) Yes. In what ways?
Family home life	I am interested in how things at home have changed for since your parent died. Have there been changes in: (e.g., household chores, arguments, mealtimes). 0) No, 1) yes - Describe.
Health	Have you been sick since I last saw you? 0) No, 1) Yes, mild, 2) Serious illness, 3) Yes, hospital required.
School	How is school going? Is it any different since we last talked? 0) No difference, 1) Yes, worse, 2) Yes, better - Describe.
Friends	What is important to you in choosing a friend? What makes this most important?
Self and future	Do you have a feeling of being more grown up since your parent died? 0) No, 1) Yes. Can you explain what this means to you? What do you want to do when you grow up?

Appendix B: Standardized measures in the Harvard Child Bereavement Study

Standardized measures	Authors
Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL)	Achenbach & Edelbrock, 1983
Perceived Competence Scale for Children (PCSC)	Harter, 1982
Locus of Control Scale (LCS)	Nowicki & Strickland, 1973
Children's Concept Related to Death	Smilansky, 1987
Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)	Radloff, 1977
Family Adaptation and Cohesion Scale-III (FACES-III)	Olson, Portner, & Lavee, 1982
Family Crisis Oriented Personal Evaluation Scales (F-COPES)	McCubbin, Larson, & Olson, 1981
Family Inventory of Life Events and Changes (FILE)	McCubbin, Patterson, & Wilson 1981
Impact of Event Scale (IES)	Horowitz, Krupnick, Katreider, Wilner, Leong, & Marmar, 1981

Appendix C: Coding guidelines that formalize how to deal with difficult cases

To clarify for the second coder and myself how to deal with certain specific cases, and what to pay attention to while coding the data, I formulated a number of coding rules. These coding guidelines are outlined in the following section.

Consistency and elaborateness. All information should be assessed in terms of how consistent family members are among each other, what their different perspectives are, and how elaborate a person is when talking about a specific topic. For example, some family members may be more elaborate in talking about the past and the deceased, while others may be more elaborate when talking about current problems. In particular, attention has to be paid to the consistency between the reports of parents and children, and between statements made by members of mother- as opposed to father-headed families.

Changes over time. The category Circumstances surrounding the loss deals with information prior to death, while all other categories described refer to the time after the loss. Information coming from the three different time points should be coded theme-wise, which means that each postloss category can include data from all postloss time points. Because it seems important to know how long after the loss things have been said, quotes need to be marked with the time point of the interview. For example, a quote taken from a T1 interview and assigned to one of the categories should be marked with T1. Every bit of information should be checked on what it may reveal about changes over time, and everything that indicates changes over time should be marked with [...]

Coding "negative cases". Negative cases should be coded as well. Examples are statements showing that social support was perceived as unhelpful (code Social Support), that the deceased is not talked about for certain reasons (code Talking about the deceased), or that a person has no clue what the other family members may be going through (code Perception of each other).

Text passages revealing information about more than one category. The goal should be to decide which of the categories represents an interview passage best. However, if there are two equally important aspects to a passage, it can be given two codes. For example, if all information available on Maintaining Continuity stems from the description of conversations between family members, it is reasonable to code this passage with both Maintaining continuity and Family communication.