



Postvention Immediately After Suicide Death: Emotional Support for Loss Survivors

Course Information Document

Target Audience: Peers, friends, family, and clinical providers

Instructional Level: Introductory

Course Description:

Postvention Immediately After Suicide Loss: Emotional Support for Loss Survivors” is a practical, skills-based workshop designed to equip providers, leaders, and community members with the tools needed to effectively support individuals and groups in the immediate aftermath of a suicide death. Grounded in evidence-informed postvention practices, this training emphasizes early stabilization, compassionate communication, and the use of non-judgmental, stigma-reducing language to foster safety and connection for those grieving. By promoting empathy, community, and proactive care, this workshop highlights postvention as a critical component of suicide prevention and long-term healing.

This workshop is designed for **peers, friends, family, and clinical providers** to learn and enhance their knowledge about engaging in conversations with suicide loss survivors. This course provides practical tools and tips for facilitating discussions that promote destigmatization and non-judgmental, compassionate conversation.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Build confidence in addressing the complex intersection of grief and trauma
2. Learn to recognize risk factors and mental health needs among survivors
3. Explore strategies for connecting individuals to appropriate resources and peer support

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CT

Duration: 1 hour

Where: Zoom

Cost: There is no cost for attending this workshop

Meet the Presenter

Dr. Carla Stumpf Patton, Ed.D., LMHC, NCC, FT, CCTP



Dr. Carla Stumpf Patton, Ed.D., LMHC, NCC, FT, CCTP, serves as the Senior Director of Suicide Prevention & Postvention at Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), where she oversees programs and services provided to military community members and families after a suicide loss. She is a suicidologist and subject matter expert in the areas of grief, trauma, and suicide prevention, intervention, and Postvention, is a registered ASIST trainer in suicide first aid, and is trained in Psychological Autopsy Investigations and Crisis Response Planning. Dr. Stumpf Patton holds a B.S. in Psychology, an M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Guidance Counseling, and a Doctorate of Education in Counseling Psychology. Her dissertation research focused on military families bereaved by suicide, and was a key contributor in the development of the TAPS Suicide Prevention Model™. Dr. Stumpf Patton is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, a Certified Fellow Thanatologist, a National Certified Counselor, a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, a Florida Qualified Supervisor, and a counseling educator in higher academia. She is the surviving spouse of Sergeant Richard Stumpf, an Active Duty U.S. Marine Corps Drill Instructor and Gulf War Era Combat Veteran who died by suicide in 1994, several days before their only child was born. She is remarried to a retired U.S. Marine, who was also a suicide survivor widower, with whom she shares five children.

Carla Stumpf Patton does not have conflicts of interest

Special Accommodations

If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Deb Kichline, Face the Fight Events Manager at kichline@uthscsa.edu one week prior to the workshop so that we may provide you with appropriate service.

Cancellation

For cancellations or additional information, please contact the STRONG STAR Training Initiative at admin@strongstartraining.org.

Agenda

Please note this agenda time is based on **Central Standard Time Zone**

12:00 pm – 12:05 pm	Welcome, Speaker Introduction, and Overview (5 minutes)
12:05 pm – 12:15 pm	Understanding suicide and postvention (10 minutes)
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	<i>Impact on Survivors: Grief, Trauma, and Risk (15 minutes)</i>
12:30 pm – 12:40 pm	<i>Immediate Response: Stabilization Strategies (10 minutes)</i>
12:40 pm – 12:50 pm	<i>Communication and Language (10 minutes)</i>
12:50 pm – 12:55 pm	<i>Supporting Healing and Connection (5 minutes)</i>
12:55pm – 1:00 pm	<i>Closing and Resources (5 minutes)</i>
1:00 pm	End of Workshop