Traumatic Bereavement: Helping the Survivors

A new book by Diego De Leo

With prefaces from Prof. Ian Webster and Prof. John McIntosh

Written in a very accessible language, this book will help in understanding what happens after a traumatic death and how survivors can be effectively supported.

In particular, the book teaches about what could be the ‘expectations’ of bereaved people and what should not be said or done.

* English translation available soon
Traumatic Bereavement: Helping the Survivors represents an original contribution to the problem of coping with an unexpected and violent death due to 'external' causes (suicide, homicide, natural disasters, road- and work-related accidents). Complemented by chapters dealing with definitional aspects of bereavement and historical developments in theories, the book offers a critical review of existing techniques to approach the 'work of mourning'. However, the main characteristic of this volume is to offer a step-by-step examination of what happens to people affected by such losses, being them child, youth or adults. The book also covers reactions from different environments, e.g. school or work settings, but also family and social networks. Another important feature of the volume is describing self-help groups and the management of groups of bereaved persons. The book also examines the consequences in therapists of the loss of a patient and the available evidence on characteristics of grief from suicide.

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Diego De Leo is Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention at Griffith University, Brisbane. Professor De Leo has published widely with over 700 publications, including 270 peer-reviewed articles, 150 book chapters and 35 volumes. He has consulted several governments and international NGOs. He is the creator of the World Suicide Prevention Day. During his IASP presidency (1999-2003), he gave great impulse to the growth of international awareness around suicide bereavement. Presented with the AAS Luis I. Dublin Award in 2011, Professor De Leo was acknowledged for his outstanding services and contributions to the field of suicide prevention as evidenced by leadership, devotion and creativity.