



## School-Based Grief Support Group Agreement

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor/Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

A facilitator from the Mourning Hope Grief Center and a school counselor/social worker will co-facilitate an 8-week grief support group for a small group of students.

### School Responsibilities

- The school's principal and counselor/social worker will enthusiastically promote the program to teachers in the school.
- The school agrees to provide a private space consistently available at the same time each week appropriate in size for a group of up to 10 students and two group facilitators.
- The school will allow students to leave class for each of the eight scheduled group meetings, lasting 60 minutes each.
- The school will have completed/signed paperwork and consent forms for a minimum of five students and/or a maximum of 10 students before the school will be added to the calendar/wait list for Mourning Hope's school grief support groups.
- The school's counselor/social worker will maintain regular communication with Mourning Hope staff, including advanced notification of any potential conflicts (i.e. testing days).
- The school's same, dedicated employee (counselor, social worker) will participate in each group session to establish a stable presence during group sessions and after they conclude.
- The school will identify students who could be eligible for the group, and will contact those students' parents/guardians to share information and obtain necessary written permission.
- If requested by either party, the school's principal will provide a time and space for Mourning Hope to conduct a staff development in-service at the school about the grief support program, and will require staff to attend.
- The school will permit the counselor/social worker to participate in a 60- to 120-minute grief training in-service in preparation to co-facilitate the grief group.
- The school's principal, counselor/social worker, and related personnel will participate in a post-program review meeting to evaluate the program and assess the potential for future school-based grief groups.
- The principal will provide an area within the school building for the Mourning Hope facilitator and the counselor/social worker to meet the group of students and their caregivers for a brief orientation to the program (as requested and needed).
- In the event a student indicates suicidal ideation, threatens to harm self or others, or reports abuse/neglect, the school counselor/social worker will follow proper notification procedures as required by school polices, Duty to Warn and Nebraska Child Protection Law.
- *The school and/or school personnel will not reproduce, copy or duplicate any portion of Mourning Hope's curriculum without the express written consent of Mourning Hope.*

## **Mourning Hope Responsibilities**

- Mourning Hope will enthusiastically support the school and its commitment to grieving children and their families.
- Mourning Hope will provide an 8-week curriculum for the grief group and will provide all supplies/materials needed for the program.
- Mourning Hope may facilitate staff development training for school personnel to discuss the needs of grieving children as well as explain the purpose and benefits of the group.
- Mourning Hope will provide a 60- to 120-minute grief training session to Lincoln Public School staff who are interested in co-facilitating a grief group.
- Mourning Hope will provide a qualified and experienced group facilitator to co-facilitate the small group with a school counselor/social worker.
- Mourning Hope will provide evaluation forms for group participants, their families and school personnel involved in the program.
- Mourning Hope may schedule an orientation meeting with students and their caregivers before the small group sessions begin (as requested and needed).
- In the event a student indicates suicidal ideation, threatens to harm self or others, or reports abuse/neglect, Mourning Hope's facilitator will complete a Safety Concern Form. This form will be given to the school counselor/social worker for purposes of record keeping and documentation.
- Mourning Hope will share results of the facilitator's background check with the Lincoln Public Schools District Office.

## **Mourning Hope Facilitator Responsibilities**

- Facilitator authorizes Mourning Hope to conduct a background check and release the results to Lincoln Public Schools District Office.
- Facilitator will maintain direct contact with Mourning Hope staff; all communication between LPS employees and Mourning Hope facilitators must include Mourning Hope staff.
- For liability purposes and in agreement with Lincoln Public Schools, the facilitator will never be one-on-one with participants; facilitators must remain with LPS personnel at all times while on school grounds.
- Facilitator will follow preset group curriculum provided with flexibility to adapt to the group's needs.

### **School**

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Principal Signature

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Date

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Counselor/Social Worker Signature

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Date

### **Mourning Hope**

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Grief Support Director Signature

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Date

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Facilitator Signature

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Date