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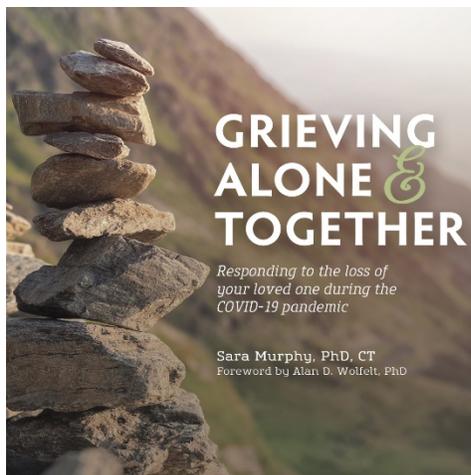
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**Funeral Service Foundation and NFDA Team up to Offer Free Resource for Families Grieving a Death During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*The free 12-page booklet, "Grieving Alone & Together: Responding to the Loss of Your Loved One During the COVID-19 Pandemic," is available to funeral professionals at [FuneralServiceFoundation.org](http://FuneralServiceFoundation.org) and to families at [RememberingALife.com](http://RememberingALife.com).*



**Brookfield, WI** – The Funeral Service Foundation and the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) have teamed up to offer a free 12-page booklet entitled "Grieving Alone & Together: Responding to the Loss of Your Loved One During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Written by certified thanatologist Sara Murphy, Ph.D., CT, with a forward by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D., the booklet offers guidance to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one during the pandemic or who would like to learn how they can support those who have.

Funded by the Funeral Service Foundation's COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund and created in partnership with NFDA as part of its consumer outreach and education initiative,

Remembering A Life, the booklet is available at no charge to all of funeral service to share with families and community outreach organizations.

"Now more than ever, funeral service professionals are called upon to safely and compassionately serve families and communities," said Foundation Chair Anthony Guerra. "The Foundation, through our COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund, is honored to equip our last responders with a free resource that will help them further strengthen those community bonds."

The resource covers the nature of grief; traumatic loss and its triggers; ambiguous losses; and the risk of disenfranchised grief. It also addresses the importance of talking to children about death and memorialization and the difficulties of being separated from a loved one at the time of their death. The booklet provides guidance on how families can meaningfully celebrate the life of their loved one and discusses the importance of maintaining your health while grieving.

"This pandemic has put us in new territory when it comes to grieving the death of a loved one," said R. Bryant Hightower, president of the National Funeral Directors Association. "I cannot imagine how painful it is for families to, not only be dealing with the death of their loved one, but also be unable to

fully participate in the traditions and rituals that bring them comfort. It's my hope that this booklet will help families find meaningful ways to honor the life of their loved one and begin to grieve and heal. I urge funeral directors everywhere to join me in making this resource available in their communities."

Funeral service professionals and all who serve grieving families can order free copies via <https://www.funeralservicefoundation.org>. Those interested simply pay shipping. An e-book version that funeral homes and organizations can embed on websites and share on social media platforms is also available online.

On [RememberingALife.com](http://RememberingALife.com), consumers can read a digital version of the booklet or request a free printed copy via [www.rememberingalife.com/griefguide](http://www.rememberingalife.com/griefguide). The booklet will be shared with consumers via the Remembering A Life social media channels.

### **Support the COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund**

Gifts to the Funeral Service Foundation COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund directly support funeral service and grieving families in this time of loss and uncertainty. Since its launch last month, which began with a \$200,000 allocation from the Funeral Service Foundation, individuals, funeral homes, and businesses across the U.S. and Canada have already answered the call to give. Notable contributions include a \$50,000 lead gift from the National Funeral Directors Association, and a \$100,000 matching gift from Homesteaders Life Company, which allows donors to double their impact.

One-time or monthly gifts at every level can be made [online](https://www.funeralservicefoundation.org/covid19fund/) at <https://www.funeralservicefoundation.org/covid19fund/>. Those interested in supporting may also send checks, made payable to the Funeral Service Foundation to the FSF COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund, 13625 Bishop's Drive, Brookfield, WI 53005, or call 262-814-1549 to make a gift by phone.

### **About the Funeral Service Foundation – [www.FuneralServiceFoundation.org](http://www.FuneralServiceFoundation.org)**

Since 1945, the Funeral Service Foundation has served as the profession's philanthropic voice. As the charitable arm of the National Funeral Directors Association since 1997, the Foundation receives operational support from NFDA and donors across the profession to help advance its mission to support funeral service in building meaningful relationships with the families and the communities it serves.

### **About Remembering A Life – [www.RememberingALife.com](http://www.RememberingALife.com)**

Remembering A Life is a guide to honoring a life well-lived, from planning a tribute to mourning a loved one. Because celebrating a life can be both remarkable and unique, Remembering A Life offers comprehensive resources to help families create a meaningful funeral or memorial service, providing the opportunity to reflect, remember and begin the grieving process. Remembering A Life is brought to families by the National Funeral Directors Association.

### **About NFDA – [www.nfda.org](http://www.nfda.org)**

NFDA is the world's leading and largest funeral service association, serving more than 20,000 individual members who represent nearly 11,000 funeral homes in the United States and 49 countries around the world. NFDA is the trusted leader, beacon for ethics and the strongest advocate for the profession. NFDA is the association of choice because it offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C.

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