

Volunteers Needed for Research Study

Dissertation: Psychological Adjustment, Relationship Satisfaction, and Communication in Bereaved Parents after the Death of a Child

By Michelle Bowes, M.A. IMFT-Supv, LPCC-Supv, NCC

To access the survey, please use the following link:

https://akron.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6FOaNNpt6FVs7AN

You are invited to participate in a research project conducted by Michelle Bowes, a doctoral candidate in the School of Counseling at The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. Michelle has been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a licensed Professional Clinical Counselor since 2007. The purpose of the study is to examine the relationship between grief related communication, parental adaptation (bereavement reaction, guilt), and relationship satisfaction. It will also examine whether gender and time elapsed since the death have implications for those relationships. Intact couples (meaning no divorced or separated couples) who are over the age of 18, who have experienced child deaths are requested for participation in this study. Child deaths for participant couples can range from fetal death (death prior to delivery, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy) up to adult children age 55.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to give general information that describes you and to complete four assessments. Please discuss your and your partner's participation in this study as you will be asked to provide your partner's name in the demographic

section, so the data can be correlated and analyzed. Providing your partner's name without their consent could potentially violate the privacy of your partner, who might not necessarily have consented to participate in this study.

The first assessment has 20 questions and measures communication, the second assessment has 22 questions and measures bereavement reaction, the third assessment has five questions and measures guilt, and the fourth assessment has 150 questions and measures relationship satisfaction. The survey takes approximately an hour to complete. Your participation will provide important information that will lead to enhanced understanding of these issues.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are free to refuse to participate or to withdraw at any time, without negative consequences. This study has been approved by The University of Akron's Institutional Review Board (#20171203). For additional questions regarding the rights of research participants, please contact the IRB at (330) 972-7666. If you have any questions about this study, please contact Michelle Bowes by emailing her at mjb79@zips.uakron.edu or phoning at (234) 206-1221. You may also contact Dr. Karin Jordan, Ph. D., Dissertation Chair and Professor, at the University of Akron, in Akron, Ohio at kj25@uakron.edu or by phoning her at (330) 972-5515.

