DISENFRANCHISED GRIEF & OLDER ADULTS: LOSING “HOME”

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What is the presumed situation of this photograph?
QUESTION TO CONSIDER: WHAT IS THE WORST LOSS?

The loss that happens to you, whatever the circumstances.
WHAT IS DISENFRANCHISED GRIEF?

“Grief that persons experience when they occur a loss that is not or cannot be openly acknowledged, socially sanctioned or publically mourned” (Doka, K. 2002).

▪ The “Hallmark” Test
QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

When have you experienced disenfranchised grief?

- Death by: suicide, homicide, drug overdose, HIV/AIDS, childbirth
- Death of: someone you didn’t know well, partner in an extra-marital affair, ex-partner, co-worker, patient or client, doctor or therapist, foster child/foster parent
- Grief following: infertility, miscarriage, abortion, adoption
- Grieving someone who is still living (Alzheimer’s / dementia, substance use disorder, traumatic brain injury, severe mental illness, incarcerated)
- Grieving someone you don’t know: celebrity, family member who died before you were born
- Loss of: independence, physical health, language, culture, tradition, hopes, dreams, lifestyle.
- Loss of significant objects
- Loss of home
What does disenfranchised grief have to do with older adults and “home”?
KC-area nursing home among worst in US: owner accused in NY human trafficking scam

Hidden Lake Care Center in Raytown is on a federal watch list of nursing homes with persistently poor inspections.
Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.
-Maya Angelou
EDITH & EDDIE

Topic

Academy Award Nominee

EDITH & EDDIE
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER?

▪ What was “home” for Edith & Eddie?
"Home is not a place, it's a feeling."

Cecilia Ahern
HOW TO SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS GRIEVING THE LOSS OF “HOME”

Enfranchise the Loss

▪ Evaluate and identify your own attitudes about grief and certain losses

Validate the Loss

▪ Acknowledge that their love for the person, item, place or thing is real, true and significant.
HOW TO SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS GRIEVING THE LOSS OF “HOME”

Assess and Build Their Support System

▪ Listen Attentively and Speak from the Heart
  ▪ Getting to “tell your story” to an engaged listener is a good way to heal

▪ Build Self-Esteem
  ▪ Empower the individual by identifying strengths and resiliencies.
References


