

Participant Information Sheet for Professionals

Name of department: School of Social Work and Social Policy

Title of the study: Impact of Childhood Bereavement on Family Dynamics during Covid -19 in Scotland.

Introduction

My name is Bright Antony. I am a PhD student in the School of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Strathclyde. I am doing a research study about how children and families were impacted by the death of a parent during Covid-19 lockdowns in Scotland. As part of this study, I am inviting professionals who supported bereaved children and/or families during COVID-19 to share their professional experiences and perspectives. This will help develop a broader understanding of how bereavement support was delivered during this period and how children and families were supported amidst lockdown restrictions.

What is the purpose of this research

This study focuses on parental bereavement and its impact on children and family dynamics during the Covid -19 lockdown. This timeline is specifically chosen to understand the effects of the pandemic on the bereavement experience, including how the various attributes of the lockdown, alongside familial, cultural and socio-economic factors, impacted child and family wellbeing. The study aims to provide valuable insights into how children in Scotland coped with the death of a parent, during Covid -19 pandemic and better understand the role of family dynamics in this experience.

Do you have to take part?

No, Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. It is your decision whether to take part or not. If you decide not to participate, or if you choose to withdraw from the study at any point, this will not affect the way you are treated in any other aspect of your life. You have the right to withdraw from the research without any detriment, and you do not need to provide a reason for doing so. If, after the interview, you change your mind, you can ask for your interview to be deleted up to two weeks of the interview taking place. After this two-week period, your interview will be transcribed and anonymised, meaning all identifying information will be removed.

What will you do in the project?

If you decide to take part in the study, you will be invited to participate in an interview. During the interview I will ask you questions about your experience of supporting a child or family through bereavement during the Covid-19 pandemic, and provide insights on how the family adapted during this period, and any challenges or changes in family life you observed.

The interview will last approximately 45 – 90 minutes and will be scheduled at a date that best suits you. You can choose where you want to have the interview: you can do it online (via Microsoft Teams or Zoom), at the University of Strathclyde, at a hospice or service organization supporting you, or at your own house - wherever you feel the most comfortable.

Why have you been invited to take part?

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You have been invited because you worked in a professional role in Scotland during COVID-19, and your role involved supporting children and/or families following the death of a parent.

Your insights will help us understand how families managed and how children responded to the loss during a very difficult time

What are the potential risks to you in taking part?

Every effort will be made to ensure a supportive environment during the interview, although some emotional discomfort may still arise. As you are reflecting on professional experiences during COVID-19 it may feel emotionally demanding for some participants. To address this you can pause, skip questions, or stop participating at any time. If you feel uncomfortable at any point, please let us know, and we will respect your decision to step back.

What information is being collected in the project and who will have access to the information?

If you give me permission to do this, then the recording will be typed out as written words. Your name and any details that could identify you will be replaced with a code (this is called pseudo-anonymisation). Later, all names and identifying details will be removed completely so no one can know it is yours (this is called full anonymisation). The original recording will then be deleted.

Any information collected as part of the interview is confidential. Only I will have access to the recordings and my supervisors will have access to the transcripts. The only exception to this is if you tell me that yourself or someone else is at risk of harm. If this happens, I will need to share the information you told me with the relevant authorities, discussing this with you first.

When I have finished the interviews, I will write up the findings for my PhD thesis, as well as for peer-reviewed publications and for events such as conferences, seminars, and workshops. This might involve using direct quotations from the interviews, which would be anonymised. If you would like to read about the findings from the research, you can let me know at the interview and I can send this to you.

All personal data will be processed in accordance with data protection legislation. Please read our [Privacy Notice for Research Participants](#) for more information about your rights under the legislation.

This research was granted ethical approval by the University Ethics Committee, University of Strathclyde.

What happens next?

Please take some time to think about if you would like to take part in this research or not. If you have any further questions about the study, then you can contact me at the information below.

If you would like to take part in this study, then please fill in the consent form by either following the link here (insert link) or by writing your name on the 'consent form' on the next page and returning to me at the information below.

If you do not want to take part, then you do not need to do anything. Thank you for reading this information sheet.

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If you have any questions/concerns, during or after the research, or wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, please contact:

University Ethics Committee

University of Strathclyde
Lord Hope Building (Level 6), 141 St James Road, Glasgow G4 0LT
Email: ethics@strath.ac.uk

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SUPPORT SERVICES:

Cruse Scotland Bereavement Support	Helpline - 0808 8081677 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 9.30am – 5pm Tuesday – 1pm – 8pm Saturday & Sunday – closed https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-support/helpline/
Scottish Action for mental Health	Network of walk-in mental health support hubs https://www.samh.org.uk/
Samaritans	Helpline : 116 123 https://www.samh.org.uk/
Breathing Space	Helpline - 0800 83 85 87 https://www.breathingspace.scot/ Weekdays: Monday-Thursday 6pm to 2am Weekend: Friday 6pm-Monday 6am
Winston's Wish	080 88020021 https://winstonswish.org/
NHS	Talk to your GP For Emergency Support call 111

Consent Form for Professionals

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- I confirm that I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet for the above project and the researcher has answered any queries to my satisfaction.
- I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice for Participants in Research Projects and understand how my personal information will be used and what will happen to it (i.e. how it will be stored and for how long).
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from the project at any time, up to two weeks after the interview. After this time, the data will be anonymized, and it will not be possible to withdraw it from the study.
- I understand that I can request the withdrawal from the study of some personal information and that whenever possible researchers will comply with my request. This includes the following personal data:
 - o audio recordings of interviews that identify me;
 - o my personal information from transcripts.
- I understand that anonymised data (i.e. data that do not identify me personally) cannot be withdrawn once they have been included in the study.
- I understand that any information recorded in the research will remain confidential and no information that identifies me will be made publicly available.
- I consent to being a participant in the project.
- I consent to being
 - ☐ Audio and video recorded (in case of Online Interviews via Microsoft Teams/ Zoom)
 - ☐ Audio recorded (Face to face interviews)
 - ☐ Not being audio or video recorded

(PRINT NAME)	
Signature of Participant:	Date: