**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

California State University, Northridge

**Grief Study**

You are being asked to participate in a research study, Grief Study, conducted by Dr Claire White. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Please read the information below and ask questions about anything that you do not understand before deciding if you want to participate. A researcher listed below will be available to answer your questions.

**RESEARCH TEAM**

**Principal Investigator:**

Claire White

Department of Religious Studies

18111 Nordhoff St.

Northridge, CA 91330- 8316

818-677-5640

[claire.white@csun.edu](mailto:claire.white@csun.edu)

Questions about the study: [griefstudy1@gmail.com](mailto:griefstudy1@gmail.com)

# PURPOSE OF STUDY

The purpose of this research study is to understand the factors that affect adjustment to bereavement.

# METHODS

**Inclusion Requirements**

You are eligible to participate in this study if:

* You are 18 years or older
* Have experienced the loss of an adult (over 40 years old) family member or significant other (e.g., relationship partner) due to an illness within the past 12 months.
* Live in Los Angeles or Ventura County
* Be able and willing to participate in a 40-min interview by phone, computer (an online survey) or in-person.

**Time Commitment**

This study will involve approximately forty minutes of your time.

# Procedures

The following procedures will occur: You will complete either an in-person interview, Zoom, phone interview about your attitudes, behaviors and decision-making at the end of your family member’s life, and how you feel after the loss.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

The possible risks and/or discomforts associated with the procedures described in this study include emotional discomfort. We have included a list of additional support in a flyer that you should have received. This study involves no more than minimal risk. There are no known harms or discomforts associated with this study beyond those encountered in normal daily life.

You may or may not derive personal benefit from participation in this study.However, the information in this study can be used to help support those who suffer from grief by informing health care providers of risks and benefits in types of reasoning about and responding to loss.

You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time and for any reason. If so, you should notify the research team immediately. The research team may also end your participation in this study if you do not follow instructions, miss scheduled visits, or if your safety and welfare are at risk.

All identifiable information that will be collected about you will be removed at the end of data collection. All research data will be stored electronically on a secure network with password protection. The audio/video recordings will also be stored electronically on a secure network with password protection; then transcribed and erased as soon as possible.

The researcher named on the first page of this form and Research Assistants will have access to your study records. Any information derived from this research project that personally identifies you will not be voluntarily released or disclosed without your separate consent, except as specifically required by law. Publications and/or presentations that result from this study will not include identifiable information about you.

The researchers intend to keep the research data for approximately two years and then it will be destroyed. Any audio or video recordings will be transcribed and deleted within 48 hours.

Under California law, the researchers are required to report known or reasonably suspected incidents of abuse or neglect of a child, dependent adult or elder, including, but not limited to, physical, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse or neglect. If any researcher has or is given such information while conducting this study, they may be required to report it to the authorities.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to answer any question or discontinue your involvement at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you might otherwise be entitled. Your decision will not affect your relationship with California State University, Northridge.

# IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

If you have any comments, concerns, or questions regarding the conduct of this research please contact the research team listed on the first page of this form.

If you have concerns or complaints about the research study, research team, or questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Research and Sponsored Programs office, 18111 Nordhoff Street, California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330-8232, by phone at (818) 677-2901 or email at irb@csun.edu.