

Clients only: Informed consent

We are an international nonprofit founded in 1996 to help grieving families facing the death of a child. The Selah Carefarm has expanded that vision to provide guidance, support, and counseling around traumatic grief for grieving families around the world. We help adults and children learn to cope with their painful emotions and trauma in a way that no other nonprofit does. We do not medicalize grief. We recognize grief as a normal reaction to an abnormal tragedy. We help clients find their personal and family strengths and we help them learn to bear the unbearable in a way that promotes open, healthy coping, and integration. At times, grieving clients may be better served by another agency or clinician. In this rare instance, we will provide references to another provider in order that you may receive appropriate services.

Contributions and Fees. The hourly rate at the Selah Carefarm ranges depending on the counselor and your income. There is a sliding scale fee available for low-income clients. The minimum donation for Carefarm counseling with one of our trained providers is \$45 per hour up to \$45,000 per year income. Please use the first two (or three) numbers of your annual income to calculate rate (i.e. if you make up to \$45K per year, \$45 per hour; \$60K per year, \$60 per hour, \$100K per year, \$100 per hour, often less than many insurance co-payments. This ensures that even very low-income families can have access to care while also allowing us to maintain our animals and Carefarm. *All funds raised from counseling go directly into the Carefarm program to help us help other families and care for our rescued animals.* **On the honor system**, we ask you to contribute **according to your annual income, honestly.**

Deposits are non-refundable

We are a small nonprofit and depend entirely on donations to our organization. From the time you register, your time slot is reserved for you and cannot be scheduled by any other client. We are doing our best to prepare your Carefarm visit by making sure we have trained staff on site. Before, during and after your visit we accommodate you the best we can with personal phone calls, intake and support. Unfortunately, there is a very high demand for our services. **We are unable to accept cancellations within of 30 days of your scheduled visit.**

Appointments. Regular attendance at your scheduled appointments, **on time**, is important. Appointment availability varies with the client load at the time. High demand appointments (off hours, late afternoons, Sundays) are likely to be sporadic in their availability. If your appointment is with Dr. Cacciatore, we request a **60-day advance cancellation** or rescheduling.

Privacy, confidentiality, and records. We do not bill insurance companies because we do not diagnose, assess, or treat mental illness and never assign a grieving client a psychiatric diagnosis of mental illness. We do not conduct psychotherapy. Our sole

purpose in accordance with our ATTEND model is to help individuals and families facing traumatic grief through mindfulness based grief and/or spiritual counseling. Thus, the only records we will keep are your intake forms. We still respect federal guidelines around confidentiality in communications and any written documents. However, there are some exceptions to confidentiality defined in the state and federal statutes. The most common of these exceptions are when there is a real or potential life or death emergency, when the court issues a subpoena, or when child/elder/animal abuse or neglect is involved. We also may participate in a process where selected cases are discussed with other professional colleagues to facilitate continued professional growth and to get you the benefit of a variety of professional experts. Most often counselors here will turn to one of the Carefarm supervisors, Dr. Joanne Cacciatore, Dr. Cheryl Pence, or Paul Kahn, LCSW.

Purpose, limitations, and risks of supportive counseling. Supportive grief counseling or spiritually focused counseling, like most endeavors in the helping professions, is not an exact science. While we strive to help you learn to cope with the effects of traumatic grief, there are no guarantees that any services provided will be useful. Moreover, the process usually involves working through painful memories and other issues that can result in some emotional or psychological pain. Counseling may result in decisions about changing behaviors, employment, substance use, schooling, housing, relationships, or virtually any other aspect of your life. Sometimes, interpersonal conflict can increase as we discuss family issues around grief and loss.

Grief or spiritual counseling process and rights. Grief or spiritual counseling will begin with one or more sessions devoted to an initial conversation in order to ascertain your unique tragedy and trauma, grief, social milieu, belief systems, and emotions around your very deep loss. We may also want to get to know your background, your childhood and family system issues, and any other factors that may be relevant. You also have the right to guide all aspects of care, on or off the Carefarm, or to withdraw from our program.

Our relationship. The client/counselor relationship is unique in that it is exclusively for the benefit of clients. If there is ever a time when you believe that you have been treated unfairly or disrespectfully, please talk with us about it. You can also contact Carefarm supervisors at info@missfoundation.org. *We all care very deeply about you.* We want to address any issues that might get in the way of the counseling as soon as possible.

Consent for supportive grief or spiritual counseling. Consent is hereby given for counseling on the Carefarm. In the case of a minor child, I hereby affirm that I am a custodial parent or legal guardian of the child and that I authorize services for the child under the terms of this agreement.

We are so deeply sorry you need us. We are so deeply thankful you've found us. We will do all we can to help you remember your beloved in ways that are profound, even if infused with grief.

My signature affirms that I, and my guests, consent to care through the MISS Foundation's Selah Carefarm and we fully understand this Informed Consent.

Signature and date

My signature affirms that I, on behalf of my minor child/children, consent to care through the MISS Foundation's Selah Carefarm and we fully understand this Informed Consent.

Parent/guardian signature and date