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APPENDIX 1 - PROPOSED DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA OF COMPLICATED GRIEF DISORDER

- A: Event criterion - Bereavement at least 14 months ago.
- B: Signs and symptoms criteria - In the last month any three of the following seven symptoms with a severity that interferes with daily functioning.

INTRUSIVE SYMPTOMS

1. Unbidden memories or intrusive fantasies related to the lost relationship
2. Strong spells or pangs of severe emotion related to the lost relationship
3. Distressingly strong yearning or wishes that the deceased were there

SIGNS OF AVOIDANCE AND FAILURE TO ADAPT

4. Feelings of being far too much alone or personally empty
5. Excessively staying away from people, places or activities that remind the subject of the deceased
6. Unusual levels of sleep disturbance
7. Loss of interest in work, social, care-taking or recreational activities to a maladaptive degree

Source: Horowitz, Siegel, Holen, Bonanno, Milbrath and Stinson (1997)

APPENDIX II – GUIDING QUESTIONS

Based on Seidman (1991), the following predetermined questions are considered to contextualize the participants' experience.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH

Tell me about the actual death.

2. MEANING OF LOSS

In what way do you miss "X"?

What has his/her death meant to you?

3. POST-BEREAVEMENT STRESSES

What changes/stresses have you experienced since the death?

4. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

In what way has the environment in which you live, influenced your experience of loss?

5. RECONSTRUCTION OF PAST LIFE EXPERIENCES

Tell me about your personal/work/family and community life until the death.

What was your family experiences like after the death?

6. AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SUPPORT

Were there any persons or groups who assisted you during and after the death?

7. PERCEIVED QUALITY OF SUPPORT

How did you experience their assistance?

8. SOCIO-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

In what way has your religion/church and culture influenced your experience of loss?

9. EXPERIENTIAL

Of the whole experience, what was the most difficult for you?