

Feelings Following Murder



1. Isolation and helplessness in a world that is seen as hostile and uncaring and that frequently blames the victim.
2. Feelings of guilt for not having protected the victim.
3. The memory of identifying the body.
4. Getting back the personal belongings of a murder victim.
5. Sensational and/or inaccurate media coverage.
6. Lack of information.
7. Endless grief.
8. Loss of ability to function.
9. The strain on marriages (frequently resulting in divorce) and the strain on family relationships.
10. Effects on health, faith and values.
11. Effects on other family members, children, friends, co-workers, etc.
12. Indifference of the community, including professionals, to the plight of survivors.
13. Society's attitude regarding murder as a form of entertainment.
14. Financial burden of funeral expenses.
15. Stress-related illnesses and difficulty accessing professional counselling for surviving family members.
16. Financial burden of civil law suits, etc.
17. Public sympathy for murderers.
18. The feeling that the murderer, if found, gets all the help; survivors following murder have few rights.
19. Outrage about the leniency of the murderer's sentence.
20. Disparities in the judicial system (frequently punishments for property crimes are greater than the crime of taking a human life).
21. Frustration surrounding the legal processes of the trial.
22. Unanswered questions about the crime.
23. Unanswered questions about postponements and continuous delays throughout the trial.
24. Bitterness and loss of faith in the criminal justice system.
25. Appeal hearings and requests for parole.
26. Reactions may divide the family – there will be those who seek revenge, and those who would rather consider forgiveness. Where feelings are not shared this can cause division and argument.
27. It can be difficult to grieve as an individual when there is mass grief – it is hard to stand apart from the crowd.

3 Vicarage Road Edgbaston, B15 3ES. 0121 454 1705.



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