



Cork's Place Family Information Packet

Rev. 3.10.23

History

Cork's Place was founded as a program for grieving children, teens, and their families under Chaplaincy Health Care in 2004. Cork's Place follows the belief that every child, teen and adult deserve the opportunity to grieve in a supportive environment. Grief is a natural reaction to the loss of a loved one for children and teens as well as adults and the duration and intensity of grief is unique for each individual person.

Group Cancellations

Cork's Place groups are weather-dependent and will follow the Kennewick School District school closures. Kennewick School District closure information can be found online at <https://www.ksd.org/> or on the KNDU station.

The Groups

Cork's Place offers peer-support groups for children and teens (3 through 17 years) grieving the death of a significant person in their life. Concurrent groups for parents and caregivers of the children/teens are also provided. Chaplaincy Health Care offers additional bereavement peer-support groups and classes. For more information, please call Chaplaincy Health Care's main line at (509) 783-7416.

Our Cork's groups are facilitated by trained volunteers and Cork's Place staff and are held year round. Our groups are 4 weeks long and Saturday workshops are also offered monthly. **All younger participants must be toilet (potty) trained and be able to use the facilities independently or utilize a pull-up/diaper while in group.*

Confidentiality and Privacy

You have the freedom to share what is important to you and determine the content of what you talk about. Groups and classes are not designed to provide therapy or counseling. They are educational, sharing, and support groups only. While we honor confidentiality, in support groups and classes, we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of other group members.



Information shared during support groups or classes is not considered confidential under the law. We have group guidelines in place to create a safe and supportive environment, and staff are available to discuss general impressions of your child/teen, but we will not disclose the specifics of what is said or done in groups. No written records are kept of what is shared in groups. However, staff will inform the adult of confidential information as indicated on the “Privacy Practices and Exceptions to Privacy” form. Please have all participating persons review this form before attending group. The personal safety and health of our children, teens, adults and families are a top priority that takes precedent over confidentiality.

General Group Guidelines

1. Thoughts, feelings and experiences shared in group or class will stay in the group. Please respect others’ rights to privacy by not discussing their experiences with anyone outside the group.
2. Each person’s experience is unique. While you may share some commonalities in your experiences, no two of you are exactly alike. Consequently, respect and accept both what you have in common with others and what is unique to each of you.
3. Create an atmosphere of safety, openness and trust by entering the conversation when you feel comfortable and respect others who wish to pass.
4. Avoid “advice giving” unless a group member specifically requests it. If advice is not solicited, don’t give it. If a group member poses a question, share ideas that helped you if you have experienced a similar situation.
5. Allow each person equal time to express themselves.
6. Please be sure to be on time and attend each group. Please notify staff of absences in accordance with our attendance guidelines.

General Safety Guidelines for Youth

1. Do not touch blood
2. No throwing things
3. Be considerate
4. Equal sharing
5. I pass
6. No hitting
7. Stop and I mean it
8. Be with an adult
9. Keep others’ words private



Adult Supervision

Youth ages 3 to 15 years old: An adult must accompany the child/teen and must remain at Cork's Place while the child/teen is in group. For liability, medical, and safety reasons, children/teens must be with a supervising parent/caregiver, staff member, or volunteer at all times inside and outside the Cork's Place facility.

Youth 16 and up: While we highly encourage adults to accompany all Cork's Place participants to group, those who are 16 years of age and older have the option to sign themselves up for group. This means that an adult does not have to be on site during group time. To do this, we need:

1. A Government or State Issued ID which states the participant's date of birth, and
2. A photo of the participant

These requirements can be fulfilled by the same document (e.g., a Driver's License or Driver's Permit) or by two separate forms of ID (e.g., a Birth Certificate and a School ID). **Please note that any participant 16 years of age and older who does **not** provide staff with this identification to sign themselves up are **not allowed** to be on site for groups without their caregiver.*

Attendance and Continuity

Many of our Cork's groups are at or close to capacity. To make sure every family who attends group receives the very best care, regular and on time attendance is important and expected of all participants. Continuity helps create a safe and supportive group. You are expected to call, email, or text staff if you will be unable to attend a group session or within 48 hours after the missed group.

**Out of respect for your fellow group members, punctuality is a necessity.*

Referrals

Cork's Place offers peer-support groups, not therapy or counseling services. When asked, we provide contact information for several therapists and/or counselors for the family's consideration and selection.

Visitors

Please do not bring VISITORS, because of issues of confidentiality and group dynamics.



Food/Items from Home

Please do not bring food, drinks, or items from home including electronics and cellphones, unless authorized by Cork's Place Staff.

**Occasionally group sessions have snacks, please inform Cork's Staff if your child/teen has any food allergies to be cognizant of.*

Communicable Diseases

We are committed to maintaining a healthy environment by preventing the spread of communicable diseases. Please do not bring a sick child/teen to the group. For more information, please refer to Chaplaincy Healthcare's COVID-19 Policies and Cork's Place COVID-19 Procedures.

Family Evaluations

We do not evaluate your grief work, but we welcome your feedback and ideas to help us improve the program and our services. Throughout the year we will ask you to participate in grant-based surveys that will improve knowledge or services for grieving children and families. Participation is voluntary. At any time you are welcome to discuss questions or concerns about your experiences with the Chaplaincy Cork's Place Supervisor at (509) 572-8373.

Cost

Chaplaincy Health Care is a 501(c) 3 organization and due to the incredible generosity of our community, groups at Cork's Place are offered at no cost to participants. We do invite families to support Cork's Place with a tax-deductible donation of any amount if they would like.