

# The Bill of Rights of Grieving Teens

By Teens at The Dougy Center

A grieving teen has the right...

- ...to know the truth about the death, the deceased, and the circumstances.
- ...to have questions answered honestly.
- ...to be heard with dignity and respect.
- ...to be silent and not tell you her/his grief emotions and thoughts.
- ...to not agree with your perceptions and conclusions.
- ...to see the person who died and the place of the death.
- ...to grieve any way she/he wants without hurting self or others.
- ...to feel all the feelings and to think all the thoughts of his/her own unique grief.
- ...to not have to follow the "Stages of Grief" as outlined in a high school health book.
- ...to grieve in one's own unique, individual way without censorship.
- ...to be angry at death, at the person who died, at God, at self, and at others.
- ...to have his/her own theological and philosophical beliefs about life and death.
- ...to be involved in the decisions about the rituals related to the death.
- ...to not be taken advantage of in this vulnerable mourning condition and circumstances.
- ...to have guilt about how he/she could have intervened to stop the death.

This Bill of Rights was developed by participating teens at The Dougy Center and does not represent "official" policies of the Center.