Ethical Practice in Grief Counseling

This practical and authoritative guide serves as a comprehensive handbook for navigating the difficult ethical issues grief counselors confront daily with clients.

Grief counselors are confronted daily with a host of serious ethical dilemmas, some so critical that they can drastically change the course of a counselor’s practice and career. These include confidentiality, end-of-life issues, intimacies with clients, challenges posed by unnatural deaths, spiritual and cultural considerations, and many more.

To tackle these issues head on, Gamino and Ritter present the Five P Model, a customized process for ethical decision-making that will help counselors outline a specific, step-by-step course of action to respond to the ethical dilemma at hand. The book is also rich with case examples, both hypothetical and real-life, to demonstrate how to implement the Five P Model in practice, and apply it to various ethical dilemmas.

Among the key topics discussed:
* How to address ethical problems posed by Internet counseling, such as authenticating identity, securing confidentiality, and intervening in a crisis
* Death competence on the part of the counselor and how the counselor’s own experience of grieving can inform counseling practice
* Guidance on how to report a colleague or face a complaint
* How to meet ethical obligations towards clients when moving or closing a practice

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