
ABSTRACT

Family member bonds with deceased crime victims: Results of long-term longitudinal interviews

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The purpose of this study was to clarify the following points in the grieving process of bereaved families: (1) how to cut off bonds with the deceased or whether they should be continued; (2) if the bonds continued, how they helped the family members to adapt to the loss; and (3) the significance of the interviews from a clinical psychology perspective. A longitudinal study was conducted on family members who were involved in murder cases. The results revealed that the family members' bonds with the deceased consistently continued: nine characteristics of these bonds were found. The bonds had different characteristics and various types of bonds were seen in parallel. The function of the bonds had both positive and negative aspects. One characteristic of a bond that allowed families to overcome the grief was the importance of family, which enabled surviving family members to maintain appropriate closeness with each other. The attitudes the author discovers in these interviews can be applied to providing psychological support to bereaved families through counseling and group therapy.

Key Words: bereaved crime victims, long-term longitudinal interview, continuing bonds
