
ABSTRACT

Transformation of family relationships among bereaved crime victims when they are involved in social activities

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This study clarifies the transformation of family relationships among bereaved crime victims. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with ten bereaved families of crime victims involved in social activities. The results were analyzed using a Trajectory Equifinality Model. The family relationships from the time the crime was committed to the present could be classified into three categories: 1) the realistic aspect of family relationships, which represents family relationships with respect to real issues associated with the crime such as the media response; 2) the emotional aspect of family relationships, which represents transformation of the family's emotions; and 3) family relationships uniquely related to bereaved children, which show how family relationships transform in unique ways when there are bereaved children. The transformation of family relationships was affected by the three categories simultaneously. It was shown that a bereaved family maintains family relationships by temporarily not discussing emotions, and that social activities promote emotional exchanges among family members. Further research should be undertaken to examine the family structure in a controlled manner.

Key Words: bereaved crime victims, social activities, family relationship, qualitative research
