#### **Credentials/Experience**

I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, a Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor for the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), a Minnesota State Board Approved Supervisor and a member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

In addition, I am a course instructor, having taught classes at the University of Minnesota, as well as at Saint Mary's University, where I am an adjunct program assistant professor.

My doctorate degree is in Family Social Science, specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy, from the University of Minnesota.

I have over 15 years of clinical experience and have provided legal expert witness services for over 10 years.

#### **Services**

I provide litigation support services and assess pecuniary loss in a particular family including:

- Consultation
- Assessment
  - -Loss
  - —Grief
  - —Mental/Emotional Suffering
- Expert Opinion
- Written Reports
- Video Deposition
- Testimony

#### **Attorney Feedback**

"We are thrilled with your work... Your reports are much more detailed and 'family-specific' than any others we have seen...I think you offer something much more than psychological experts who do not specialize in grieving families."

—Pittsburgh, PA Injury Lawyer

"I thought the report was fantastic... It would have made a big impact had the case gone to trial... We've worked with this family for over a year, but I never really knew them until I read your report."

—Pittsburgh, PA Injury Lawyer

"Dr. Daniels brought exceptional value to our case not only from a legal standpoint, but a clinical standpoint as well insofar that our client benefited from her expertise and pleasant manner"

—St. Louis, MO Injury Lawyer

 $Family Loss And Grief\ Experts.com$ 

Kathrine Daniels, PhD, LMFT Pauline Boss, PhD, LMFT

# Family Loss and Grief Experts

### Litigation and Expert Witness Services



Kathrine Daniels, PhD Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

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www.FamilyLossAnd Grief Experts.com We assess intangible elements of pecuniary damages for loss in a particular family, depending on the particular damages recoverable in the applicable jurisdiction. We use a research methodology that is accepted in the fields of family science and family therapy to asses both quantitatively and qualitatively what services and benefits the surviving family members lost after the death or disability of a family member.

Individual interviews are conducted with stakeholders and non-stakeholders of the lawsuit. Consistency and convergence among the interviews is assessed in order to determine the quality and quantity of the services and benefits provided by the deceased in each of the following four categories:

- 1. Comfort, companionship, consortium and care.
- 2. Protection and security.
- 3. Council, advice, guidance and teaching.
- 4. Special skills and services.

An assessment and expert opinion of mental and emotional suffering and grief can be provided as well, upon request.

#### Loss is Unique to Each Family

Every family is unique based on their own structure, roles and patterns of systemic functioning.

## Variables Our Experts Assess to Determine *Unique* Loss:

**Family Variables**: The structure, patterns, and systemic functioning of family variables including:

- The degree of closeness, comfort and care provided by the deceased.
- The quality and quantity of time spent with members of the family.
- The roles performed in the family by the deceased.
- The quantity and quality of the services and benefits provided by the deceased.
- Pre-existing mental and emotional challenges in the family system which are affected by the loss.
- Any unique family characteristics (structure or function) such as the death of the only biological child.

**Degree of Change:** The degree and manner of change in structure and function following the loss to accommodate the deceased roles, services and benefits, etc.

#### **Non-normative Death Factors:**

The degree to which the death was brutal, unexpected, sudden, untimely, senseless preventable, etc.

#### **Determining the Cumulative Impact of the Loss**

The cumulative impact of the loss is determined by the unique interaction of variables particular to each family.

We examine the context of each of the variables assessed. Based on our professional training, education, research, and therapeutic experience, we determine the collective impact unique to the family of the deceased. The more exceptional the quality and quantity of the family variables, the greater the degree change in the family system, and the more nonnormative the death, the more devastating and debilitating the loss can be. The cumulative impact of the variables can complicate the loss and create greater difficulty for a family to process and integrate the loss.

#### **Our Report Includes:**

- A description of the family's structure and culture.
- A complete listing of the quantity and quality of all the services and benefits provided by the deceased
- A comprehensive opinion of the family's unique loss, which is family-specific, tailored to identify the family's particular loss.
- General psychological research on loss is provided supplementally.