When responding to youth impacted by homicide grief there is often a series of complex factors contributing to these moments of human connection & support. As a caregiver, frontline worker, support professional, or camp partner - we recognize the need for resources that can be easily referenced and shared. Designed by Eluna's diligent programmatic teams, we are proud to present these pocket-size postcard pointers with top tips from the field of bereavement support.

You are welcome to print the Homicide Grief postcard pointers and distribute freely or you can purchase a set of pre-printed postcards from Eluna to be shipped directly to you or a community organization.

**HOMICIDE GRIEF**

**Pointers:**

- Reassure youth that it isn't their fault & they are not alone
- Tell the truth using simple terms, "Someone hurt ____ and they died. It can be difficult to understand why someone would cause harm like this. What questions are coming up for you?"
- Reestablish youth safety & create a list of safe people & places
- Embrace feelings without judgment (anger, guilt, shame, etc.)
- Recognize potential for trauma response or prolonged grief
- Consider peer support groups & grief camps, such as Camp Erin
- Welcome questions, concerns & LISTEN! LISTEN! LISTEN!

**Things to Avoid:**

- Empty reassurances, such as "All things happen for a reason" or "It is going to be OK"
- Rushing the grief process or trying to fix it - It is ok to not be ok
- Telling someone how to feel or cope, such as "Be strong" or "At least...."
- Assuming all homicide grief is the same - let youth share their experiences
- Exposure to graphic content via media & adult conversations
- Imposing viewpoints, placing blame or trying to make sense of the death

To purchase a set of pre-printed postcards, please contact Sarah with the Eluna Resource Center: sarahbehm@elunanetwork.org
Click here to see the full postcard pointer series

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