



Joanne L. Harpel, MPhil, CT, JD, President of Coping After Suicide, LLC, is an international authority on suicide bereavement and postvention response. She is Certified in Thanatology (death, dying, and bereavement) and has over 20 years' experience addressing the questions, emotions, and complexities that arise in the aftermath of suicide.

Joanne has worked with public, private, and parochial educational institutions of all sizes and types, from the interdisciplinary crisis response team of a major public university to college-prep boarding schools, to suburban high schools, to rural middle schools. She regularly consults with and trains administration, faculty, psychological services departments, and other educational personnel; and conducts community education forums for students, parents, and communities.

Her background and experience also include:

- co-authoring *After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools*, a free online resource used nationwide by school communities facing real-time crises
- over a decade as the first-ever Senior Director for Public Affairs and Postvention for the largest suicide prevention nonprofit in the world (the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)
- co-authoring a primer on explaining suicide to children, adolescents, and teens, and presenting on the subject at the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association
- co-creating *The "Bullycide" Myth®*, an educational program debunking the dangerously oversimplified media narrative connecting bullying and suicide, which was a featured presentation for the New York State School Boards Association
- spearheading a bereavement support training program for children and teens in collaboration with the Dougy National Center for Grieving Children & Families
- developing the online Companion Guide for HBO's critically acclaimed *Boy, Interrupted*, and
- consulting with the Sesame Workshop on Sesame Street's *When Families Grieve* initiative

A former attorney and the survivor of her own brother's suicide, Joanne was a founding co-lead of SAMHSA's National Survivors of Suicide Loss Task Force, which created national guidelines on responding to grief, trauma, and distress after a suicide. She co-chairs the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's Lived Experience Committee and serves on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Lived Experience Committee. A Professional Career Suicidologist with the American Association of Suicidology, she is also a professional member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling and the National Alliance for Children's Grief. She serves as an advisor to Anonymous Alerts, an app that allows students to confidentially report bullying and other unsafe behavior.

Her work has been recognized with the two most prestigious awards available in the field: the American Association of Suicidology's Survivor of the Year Award and the International Association for Suicide Prevention's Farberow Award.

A *cum laude* graduate of Amherst College, Joanne also holds graduate degrees from Cambridge University and the NYU School of Law. She lost her brother Stephen to suicide in 1993.

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