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Long Term Outcomes of Losing a Child

through Adoption: The Impact of Disenfranchised Grief

Grief Matters: The Australian Journal of Grief and Bereavement

Volume 10 Issue 1 (Autumn 2007)

Robinson, Evelyn¹

Abstract: When Disenfranchised Grief: Recognizing Hidden Sorrow (Doka, 1989) was published, it was hailed as a groundbreaking work, and clarified for the first time the

many ways in which grieving a loss other than death can be complicated. I wrote my first book (Robinson, 2000), after reading about the concept of disenfranchised grief and recognising its relevance to the long-term outcomes for family members separated by adoption. I suggested to Dr. Doka that a chapter on adoption loss would be an appropriate addition to a revised edition of his text. Dr. Doka did, in fact, publish a revised edition of his book (Doka, 2002), and a chapter on adoption loss and grief was included. In this article I explore the ways in which the concept of disenfranchised grief can apply to mothers who have been separated from their children by adoption.



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To cite this article: Robinson, Evelyn. Long Term Outcomes of Losing a Child through Adoption: The Impact of Disenfranchised Grief [online]. Grief Matters: The Australian Journal of Grief and Bereavement, Vol. 10, No. 1, Autumn 2007: 8-11. Availability: <https://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=056445937745243;res=IELFS> ISSN: 1440-6888. [cited 20 Jul 18].

Personal Author: Robinson, Evelyn;

Source: Grief Matters: The Australian Journal of Grief and Bereavement, Vol. 10, No. 1, Autumn 2007: 8-11

Document Type: Journal Article

ISSN: 1440-6888

Subject: Grief; Loss (Psychology); Adoption--Psychological aspects;

Peer Reviewed: Yes

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