

The Connecticut Hospice, INC.

## Bill of Rights for the Bereaved

1. Do not make me do anything I do not wish to do.

2. Let me cry.

- 3. Allow me to talk about the deceased.
- 4. Do not force me to make quick decisions.
- 5. Let me act strange sometimes.
- 6. Let me see that you are grieving too.
- 7. When I am angry, do not discount it.
- 8. Do not speak to me in platitudes.
- 9. Listen to me, please!

10. Forgive me my trespasses, my rudeness, and my thoughtlessness.

## Twelve Freedoms of Healing in Grief

1. You have the freedom to realize your grief is unique.

- 2. You have the freedom to talk about your grief.
- 3. You have the freedom to expect to feel a multitude of emotions.
- 4. You have the freedom to allow for numbness.
- 5. You have the freedom to be tolerant of your physical and emotional limits.
- 6. You have the freedom to experience grief attacks or memory embraces.
- 7. You have the freedom to develop a support system.
- 8. You have the freedom to make use of ritual.
- 9. You have the freedom to embrace your spirituality.
- 10. You have the freedom to allow a search for meaning.
- 11. You have the freedom to treasure your memories.
- 12. You have the freedom to move toward your grief and heal.