

Critical Incident Support



Barnardos

Because childhood lasts a lifetime

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Support After Traumatic Death in the Community

What kind of critical incidents does the Barnardos Children's Bereavement Service respond to?

- The aftermath of a violent death in the community either witnessed by children or significantly and personally affecting children and the communities who care for them;
- The aftermath of the unexpected death of a child, affecting children and those who care for them.

When: Most helpful if offered within 2-4 weeks of the critical incident

What: 3 steps: 1) Pre-brief meeting; 2) CIS session; 3) Debrief with lead practitioner(s)

Time: 60-90 minutes, depending on group size

For: Staff teams (eg early years, schools, youth workers, social workers, residential care)

Group size: Ideally, not more than 15

Format: Online or in-person, depending on availability/geography

Contact: bereavement@barnardos.ie

What does a Critical Incident Support session offer?

An opportunity for adults to receive their own support so they can be emotionally available to their children's traumatic responses/grief.

Information about the difference between trauma and grief and helpful responses to both.

Support for key adults to have honest, age-appropriate conversations with young people about the death and to answer children's questions about it.

Guidance on how to offer young people choices about involvement in any memorial/funeral services now and in the future.

Discussion about useful next steps.

Follow up resources appropriate to the group to be supplied after the session.