

# **The Pathfinders Responds to a Tragedy**

## **The Pathfinders Care Responders**

### **PCR GROUP**

## **TIPS FOR HOME VISITS**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although the Pathfinders are not mental health professionals, it is important to understand that response serves like a kind of debriefing or defusing. It is also important to understand that a well-thought-out, sensitive, on-time response, can go a long way with the healing of the wounds. People want to feel and know that they are not alone during the time of pain and loss

With this in mind, the Pathfinders are “**The Care Responders**” to this or other tragedies in the future. They are simply providing **support** and **encouragement** for families or friends of the victim(s).

### **WHO ARE THE PATHFINDERS CARE RESPONDERS--PCR?**

The Pathfinders Care Responders is a trained group of Pathfinders to do home visitation to families of the victims within 12 to 24 hours of incidents or tragedies. The Pathfinders Care Responders (PCR) provide **encouragement** and **emotional support** for victims or families of victims of violence, hurricane, or other tragedy.

When or if the Pathfinders respond immediately on the scene of a crime/incidents they will be the “**The First Responders (for emotional support--PFR)**.” This is not to be confused with PCR

## DO

1. Do visit within 12 to 24 hours of the incident
2. Do make a follow-up call within 24 hours after making the first home visit. The director to do this.
3. Do send an email, note or card after the visit.
4. Realize that the pain can't be measured. Although he/she is a teen, he/she is of much worth.
5. You can pray for the family. It is imperative to ask permission to pray. You can say, "Would you like for me to pray." And/or "Is there anything you would like for me to specifically mention in the prayer?" Make sure the prayers are focused prayers. Avoid praying for the country or other families while you are praying for the hurting one.
6. Observe the environment of the home/area without being too conspicuous. If there is need for window, roof, plumbing, painting repairs, etc., refer to Social Services, Adventist Men, or return to do it.
7. Do wear the uniforms appropriate for the occasion. Do not wear the formal uniform, but T-Shirts, etc, instead.
8. Do make sure there are male and female Pathfinders
9. Do make sure there are a few Pathfinders the age of the victim.
10. Do make sure the Pathfinders' demeanor exude peace, hope and courage.
11. Do cry if the victims are crying.
12. Invite all in the home. It is appropriate to ask for all at home at the time to join the meeting.
13. Do take a box of sorted food items, or a cooked pot of soup, etc.
14. Do follow-up visit once a week via the phone or in person for three to six weeks. The visit continues two to three weeks after the funeral. These are very short visits.
15. Do attend the funeral service of the victim. Since you are showing concern by visiting, it will be insulting not to attend the funeral. (Attend and sit silently. Just be present)
16. Avoid appearing as though the visit is a recruitment for the Pathfinder's Organization.

# DO NOT

1. Do not visit or enter the home as “health inspectors.” Avoid giving the appearance that you are looking around. If the aroma is fowl, do not show it with your faces nor is it to be heard from the voices. Always have a pleasant face.
2. Do not continue the visit with a competition with sounds. Kindly ask them to turn off the television/radio.
3. Do not force reluctant family members or friends to be in the meeting.
4. Do appear to be genuinely concerned and sensitive.
5. Do not have a long meeting. Ideally, seven to twelve minutes is a good length. However, if it is longer, it will be dictated to by the response or needs of the family. However, make sure to find a quick exit.

# WHAT TO SAY?

Upon arrival: “Good afternoon, we are The Pathfinders Care Responders.” We have come to provide encouragement during your immediate loss.” (Avoid using “Seventh-day Adventist.” Use Pathfinders Care Responders.)

“Would you like to talk about your son/daughter/relative.” “Tell us about him/her” “How do you remember him/her?”

“What are some of the descriptive words you can use to describe your son/daughter?”

“Would you like to share about how you feel about the loss?”

“Would you like to share about what happened?”

“Did your son/daughter have a favorite song/scripture text/hobby, etc?”

“We will be following up each week with a visit or phone call. May I have your phone, or email, etc.” Here is mine. Have a small card with your phone contact. Give two cards at least.

Card Example:

# The Pathfinders

Pastor Jamal Franklyn, Director  
427-1890

Patrick Wilson, Assistant Director  
422-1822

*“Providing care and encouragement”*

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TIPS FOR ON-THE-SCENE RESPONSE TO COME

# The Pathfinders

# First Responders

# *For Emotional Support*

# PFR Group