

Primary Parent's Grief Cycle

A. Shock/Denial

1. Robot-life
2. Compliant
3. Deny problems, tell child they will be right back home
4. Avoid worker and deny need to be involved with agency

B. Bargaining

1. Semi-responsive, compliant
2. Broad promises: I'll do all these things to get my children back.

C. Depression

1. Forget appointments – miss visits
2. Exhibit little initiative
3. See everything as futile

D. Separation resolution

1. Parent moves away
2. No response to worker/child
3. Stop visits
4. No protest in court



The sooner a parent is engaged into believing they can develop resources (have coping abilities) to be reunited with the child, the more likely the child will be able to return home.

As children enter care, families lose more than children:

- Self-esteem – frequently people see who they are by what their children become
- Sense of purpose – families with multiple problems, frequently hope they can at least be good parents
- Family identity – become seen as inadequate members of their family
- Loss of respect from others – hard to explain without diminishing respect of self why children are gone
- Loss of income – possible loss of ADC or other support.