



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 19, 2004

Media Contact: Paula N. Arnold, Resources Coordinator 617-618-2467

SPRC Phone: 877-GET-SPRC (438-7772)

**SPRC Publishes *After a Suicide: Recommendations for Religious Services and Other Public Memorial Observances***

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) today released a guide to assist community and faith leaders who help plan memorial observances and provide support to individuals after the loss of a loved one to suicide.

According to David Litts, author of the paper and Associate Director of SPRC, "The grief and healing process of those who have survived the suicide of a loved one is often complicated by misinformation and misunderstanding. By better understanding suicide and its aftermath, community and faith leaders can be especially sensitive in providing care and can work to reduce the stigma, embarrassment and unwarranted guilt that many survivors feel."

This paper includes helpful perspectives on grief, care and support, and theological issues related to suicide. Additionally, it provides important recommendations for public memorial services with the goal of minimizing harm that can stem from some types of communication after a suicide. Attention is given to suicide among the aging and infirm, as well as to special considerations for youth.

*After a Suicide: Recommendations for Religious Services and Other Public Memorial Observances* is freely available for reading and downloading on the SPRC website at <http://www.sprc.org/library/aftersuicide.pdf>

**About SPRC**

As the nation's first federally-funded suicide prevention resource center, SPRC supports communities with the best of science, skills and practice to prevent suicide. The Center provides prevention support, training, and resource materials to strengthen suicide prevention networks throughout the country and advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The Center is supported by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is based at Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), in Newton, MA. SPRC is a highly collaborative effort between EDC and its partners, which include the American Association of Suicidology, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the Suicide Prevention Action Network, and others.

**Contact SPRC**

**Call:** 1-877-GET-SPRC (438-7772)

**Visit:** [www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)

**Email:** [info@sprc.org](mailto:info@sprc.org)

**TTY:** 617-964-5448

**Write SPRC:** Suicide Prevention Resource Center

Education Development Center, Inc.

55 Chapel Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02458-1060.