

Bereavement Experiences of Families of Elderly Individuals Who Died Due to COVID-19

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Abstract : This study was conducted to evaluate the bereavement experiences of families of elderly individuals who died due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the qualitative research methods, the case study method, was used in the study. The sample of the research consisted of 19 people who agreed to participate in the research between April and July 2022. The research data were collected using a Personal Information Form and a Semi-Structured Interview Form, which was created to conduct individual in-depth interviews. As a result of the descriptive analysis, four main themes, the ability to perform religious rituals related to the bereavement experience, feelings and thoughts about death, attitudes of those around after death, and coping strategies in the COVID-19 process. It was determined that individuals had difficulty accepting death, felt inadequate about spirituality due to limited religious rituals, had feelings of despair and guilt, and limitedly utilized social support systems.

Keywords : COVID-19 pandemic, bereavement, psychiatric nursing, qualitative study

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