



## **INFORMATION ABOUT STARTING A CHAPTER OF BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA**

**If you feel that there is a need for a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings in your area here is what you should do. First, read the information on these web pages about what BP is and what we do. Also read our Credo.**

**Please note that there is no charge to start a BP/USA support group. We have a person who will help you get going and send you materials to help you know what to do. We have a quarterly Newsletter which gives helping articles and information for use in Newsletters and in meetings. We also have a Chapter Chat which goes to all Chapter Leaders 3 or 4 times a year with information and tips. We have an annual Gathering which offers workshops, speakers and other helps to leaders and members. Our website provides helps in various areas and links to other helping groups. There is no cost for any of this.**

**We feel that leaders and steering committees should consist of Bereaved Parents, Grandparents and Siblings. These are the people who truly understand and know what is needed in a support group. We have found that it is best if the leaders are 18 to 24 months away from the death of their child. The group will always be of help to the leaders too, but they need a little distance from the initial deep grief.**

**Does this sound like the type of group you would like to start? Then here are the first steps.**

- 1 Find 3 other bereaved parents, grandparents or siblings who will help start the group. Four signatures are required on your paper work. This can be two couples.**
- 2 Find a place to hold your meetings. This can be a church, a hospital, a library or other place which is convenient and where people will feel comfortable.**
- 3 Decide on a day and time for the meetings.**
- 4 Get the word out to your community that you are starting a support group, who it is for, where and when it will meet, etc. You can do this by contacting doctor's offices, hospitals, churches, funeral homes and newspapers and radio stations. We have brochures that might help explain things to people which you may get by contacting the person listed below.**
- 5 Choose a Chapter Leader and a Designated Member.**
- 6 Contact us for the necessary paper work and various applications that need to be filed with us and with the IRS.**
- 7 After you have done all of this, you will be sent a Charter and a Chapter Leader's Handbook which will help you get going and you will be placed on all of our mailing lists.**

**For further information, contact: Pat Moser, BP/USA Chapter Development  
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