



Funeral arrangements for your baby

Information for families

On behalf of Whittington Health, please accept our condolences on the death of your baby.

This factsheet has been created to provide you with the practical information you will need to make the required arrangements, following the birth of your baby. There are several options open to you, depending on how far along you were in your pregnancy.

You can make private arrangements

- A funeral director can collect your baby from the hospital for a private funeral, cremation, or burial. There is a list of local funeral directors at the end of this leaflet.
- The hospital does not pay for private funerals. You will need to arrange it yourself or with the help of your religious leader.
- If your baby was born after 24 weeks, some costs will be covered by government funding. Most funeral directors keep costs as low as possible.

The hospital can arrange for your baby to be a part of a joint cremation

- The hospital can arrange for your baby to be cremated with other babies.
- The ashes are scattered in the Childrens Garden of Remembrance at Islington and St Pancras Cemetery in East Finchley.
- You do not need to be involved or contacted unless you ask to be.
- If you want to know the date of the scattering of the ashes, we can let you know.
- The ashes cannot be returned to you, but you can visit the garden of remembrance at any time.

You can take your baby home

- You can take your baby home if you deliver before 24 weeks.
- Your baby will be placed in a sealed box.
- It is important to consider what will happen once at home.
- If you intend to bury the remains you must own the land (or have permission from the owner) and you need to think about what will happen if you move home.
- Please consider whether there are pets or animals in the area who may dig up the remains.
- If you decide to do this, we will provide you with information on how to do this correctly.



You may need more time to think about this

- Take as much time as you need to consider what will happen after the pregnancy ends.
- To discuss your options further you can email whh-tr.bereavementmidwife@nhs.net
Leave your details and we will call you back when you are ready.

Stillbirth Registration

If your baby was born on or after 24 weeks, you must register the baby before funeral arrangements can be made.

Registration of a stillborn baby

1. What forms do you require?

- A 'Certificate of Stillbirth' will be issued by either a clinician or registered midwife.
- The certificate will normally be given to you by the Bereavement Midwife who will be able to answer any questions that you might have.

2. When do you need to register the stillbirth?

- The birth must be registered within 42 days and not later than three months following delivery.

3. Where do you register the stillbirth?

The birth can be registered at:

The Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages
Islington Town hall
Upper Street
London N1

Please email them to make an appointment: registrars@islington.gov.uk

4. Who can register a stillbirth?

- If the parents are married/in a civil partnership, then either parent can register the stillbirth.
- If the parents are not married/in a civil partnership, both mother and father/other parent should attend the registry office to sign the stillbirth register together.



5. What information do you require when registering a stillbirth?

- On production of the Certificate of Stillbirth issued by the clinician or midwife, you will need to provide the following details:

Baby - date and place of stillbirth, first name and surname of baby, sex of the child.

Mother - full name of mother; date and place of birth; occupation at time of stillbirth or, if not employed, previous occupation; usual address; date of marriage, if married to the father of the stillborn baby; number of previous children by present husband and by any former husband.

Father/Other Parent - full name, date and place of birth, occupation at time of stillbirth or, if not employed, previous occupation.

6. What documents will you receive?

You will receive:

- the certificate for burial or cremation that you give to the funeral director or person arranging the funeral.
- a certificate of registration, which is free of charge, to prove that the stillbirth has been registered.
- a stillbirth certificate is available for a small charge with complete information on both parents, the baby and medical cause of the stillbirth.

Act of Remembrance

- Each year we hold an Act of Remembrance ceremony, within the hospital, for families that have been bereaved due to the death of their baby or child.
- You will be contacted with information on the date, time, and venue of the next Act of Remembrance, and you are welcome to attend.
- An entry can be made in the Book of Remembrance that can be found in the Department of Spiritual and Pastoral Care. Please ask a member of staff for details.
- The death of a baby is a very difficult time for the parents, their family, and friends. If we can support you further, please contact us. This includes asking for a referral to the women's health counselling service.



Useful contacts

- **Bereavement support midwife**

Jane Laking, Debra Virchis and Katie Courtney

Shared Phone: 07825 009071

whh-tr.bereavementmidwife@nhs.net

- **Department of Spiritual and Pastoral Care**

Tel: 020 7288 5337

- **Labour Ward**

Tel: 020 7288 5502

- **Funeral Directors**

The following is a list of funeral directors located within a four-mile radius of the hospital. Please note this list is given as a guide only. The hospital cannot specifically recommend any of them. It is up to you to assess the quality of service offered.

Co-op Funeral Directors – several branches in London – 0808 304 7279

Dignity (several locations) – 0808 231 6684

A France & Son, WC1N (also Islington & Hendon) – 0207 4054901

African Caribbean Funeral Service, N16 0UD – 0207 275 0175

Abney Funeral Services, N16 7JD – 0207 923 7111

Chandu Taylor & Son, N11 1QD – 0208 361 6151

Demetriou & English, N22 8NG – 0208 889 9888

Floyd & Son, N1 7QP – 0207 490 5090

Harrison Funeral Home, N19 5NL – 0208 819 3268

22London Direct Cremations, NW2 3LJ – 0808 296 7015

Leverton & Sons Ltd (several locations) – 0207 387 6075

A W Luck & Son, N2 8DX – 0208 883 2429

Melville & Daughters, N15 3PT – 0208 888 7262

M M Broad & Son, N12 8RG – 0208 108 1919

Oakleigh Funerals Ltd, N20 0RU – 07713160873 (Ian)

Thomas Crib & Son, E6 5PA – 0207 476 1855

WG Miller, N1 2SJ – 0207 226 3886



Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please email whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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