

Funeral choices for your Baby born later than 16 weeks of pregnancy

An information guide



Funeral choices for your Baby born later than 16 weeks of pregnancy

Please accept our deepest condolences on the loss of your baby. This is an extremely distressing and confusing time for you and your family. This leaflet will help to guide you through the decisions and choices you will now need to make for your baby's funeral.

What funeral options are available?

Private Funeral

Most parents decide to hold a private funeral for their baby. This means the parents and family decide when, where and how the funeral takes place. This has been shown to help with the long term grieving process. A private funeral can be as large or small as the family wish. It does not need to incur any expense depending on your choices.

As with adults, babies can be buried or cremated.

Cremation for babies is completely free. Usually, ashes or cremated remains will be available for you to keep or scatter. If your baby is very tiny, there may not be any ashes.

Burial requires a plot, the price of which varies depending on the size and location of the plot. A private plot means the family can personalise the grave with a headstone and inscription of your choice if you wish.

If your baby was born before 24 completed weeks of pregnancy with no sign of life at birth, staff will ask you to complete a **Form 1** which you will pass to the funeral director of your choice. Your baby does not need to be registered at the Registry office if he or she was born under 24 weeks gestation with no sign of life at birth.

If your baby was born after 24 completed weeks of pregnancy and showed no sign of life at birth, then this is known as a stillbirth.

The ward will issue you with a certificate of stillbirth which you will need to take to the Registrar's office by appointment. The telephone numbers appear at the end of this leaflet.

At North Manchester General Hospital, the Registrar visits the hospital every Wednesday morning so you can register your baby there if there is availability. Once your baby has been registered, the Registrar will issue a certificate which your funeral director will need to arrange the funeral.

Please note, if your baby was born showing any sign of life at birth, then ward staff will need to inform the Coroner. This will often mean the funeral cannot take place on the same day.

Hospital Funeral

Should you wish, the hospital can arrange the funeral for your baby.

The hospital preferred method in this event is for baby to be **cremated** with other babies (called a communal cremation). Parents and family cannot attend the cremation.

There is no service, but the babies are blessed by a member of the Spiritual care team. The cremation will be carried out either at Hollinwood crematorium or Blackley crematorium and any ashes will be scattered in the Garden of Remembrance.

It will not be possible for you to have your baby's ashes returned to you if you choose this option.

If cremation is against your belief, the hospital can arrange for a **communal burial** in a cemetery close to your home.

As with a hospital cremation, you cannot attend the burial, and you cannot mark the grave with a headstone. It may be possible to locate where your baby is buried, although it may be sometime after your baby has died.

How quickly do I have to decide about my baby's funeral?

You do not have to decide about your baby's funeral before you go home. In fact, it is probably better for you to take time to consider, ensuring you have made the correct decision.

If you do go home without making a decision, you will be given a consent form which you will need to return to the bereavement office, or you can contact the bereavement midwife to help and advise you on:

The Royal Oldham Hospital: 07817 023096

North Manchester General Hospital: 07817 023547

(If we do not hear from you within 6 weeks, the hospital will arrange for your baby to be cremated)

How else can I remember my baby?

There is a book of Remembrance which is kept on the Butterfly Suite on the labour ward.

Staff will advise you how to go about having an entry made into the book for your baby if you wish. You are welcome to view the book of Remembrance at any time.

The trust also holds a baby loss memorial service twice a year, usually in May and October. You can contact the Spiritual care team or the bereavement midwife for more details on this.

Who do I contact if I need more advice or support?

The Bereavement midwives:

The Royal Oldham Hospital: 07817 023096

North Manchester General Hospital: 07817 023547

Neonatal bereavement nurse is contactable via the neonatal unit on 0161 627 8151

The Spiritual care team:-

Telephone:- 0161 778 5259 or www.pat.nhs.uk

Women and Children's counselling service:- 0161 720 5259

Oldham registry office:- 0161 770 8960

Manchester registry office:- 0161 234 5511

Stillbirth and neonatal death society:- www.uk-sands.org

Notes:

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

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إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

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For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897


For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

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