

Burial

A children's section is available in both Eastfield and Fletton Cemetery. The graves in these sections are small and are only suitable for the burial of babies and children. When considering your options you may want to think about burying your baby in a larger plot in the main area of the cemetery. In this case you would be able to use the same grave for one or two adults at some time in the future, possibly for a grandparent or a parent, without disturbing the baby.

If burial in a private grave is your preferred choice, whether in the main section or the Children's section of the cemetery, a deed will be issued to you giving what is known as the exclusive right to the grave. This means that nothing can be done to the grave without the written permission of the owner of the exclusive right. The owner therefore has total control over the memorial that might be placed on the grave (subject to the cemetery's rules and regulations).

Cremation

Cremation can be either via a private funeral service, i.e. one you arrange yourselves for your baby, or a shared cremation service, i.e. one where several babies are remembered together in a service that can be attended by all the families.

If you choose a private cremation you should discuss your requirements for the service directly with your funeral director or with the crematorium.

If you choose cremation you should be informed that there might not be any cremated remains resulting from the cremation (whether this be a shared or private cremation). If you choose a shared cremation this information should be relayed to you by the bereavement officer at the hospital, or by your funeral director if you are arranging a private cremation.

Where cremated remains are recovered from a private cremation the crematorium will deal directly with the parent(s) regarding the scattering or burial of the cremated remains and memorial facilities. Where cremated remains are recovered from a shared cremation these will be scattered in the Garden of Remembrance, the location recorded and the hospital will be informed. You can find out if cremated remains were recovered or not by contacting the hospital, funeral director or crematorium on the day following the funeral service.

Baby and Infant Funerals

Guidance to assist bereaved parents with making the decisions that are right for them.

Peterborough Crematorium
Mowbray Road
North Bretton
Peterborough
PE6 7JE

Tel: 01733 262639

Member of the Charter for the Bereaved

Introduction

We are so sorry that your baby has died. We hope that the information in this policy will explain your options and help you to make decisions about your baby's funeral. Remember, it is your right to be able to arrange a private funeral that meets with your requirements and wishes at the cemetery or crematorium of your choice. Alternatively, most hospitals will make arrangements for shared funeral services (that is, for more than one baby) at their local cemetery and/or crematorium.

The information below will help you make decisions about your preferred choices and the options available, however remember that further help is also available through your Charter member, funeral director, G.P. and hospital bereavement officer.

Sands is a well known national organisation that provides help and support to bereaved parents via a network of local groups. Some local groups have assisted burial and cremation authorities with developing their services to bereaved parents. The Sands website (<http://www.uk-sands.org/>) contains a wealth of advice and information that might help you make decisions on the funeral that meets with your needs. The Sands Helpline on 020 7436 5881 is available if you would like to speak to someone or be put in touch with your nearest Sands group.

Your Choices

Many NHS hospitals offer to organise and pay for a funeral for a baby who dies at any stage of pregnancy or shortly after birth. Parents can usually attend the funeral and can also usually make some decisions about the kind of service and how they will participate. Alternatively you can take full control and arrange a private funeral.

Burial or Cremation

It is your right to decide whether a burial or cremation service is provided for your baby. This Burial/Cremation Authority considers the interests of the bereaved family and the baby or infant left in our care to be the central focus of our attention. This will be reflected in all of our administrative and operational practices and procedures.

All practices and procedures are implemented following guidance from The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and the National Committee on Infant Cremation. A copy of our Policy statement is available from the Bereavement Services office.

Hospital Arrangements

The hospital authorities generally do not charge for making burial or cremation arrangements. They also pay any necessary cemetery or crematorium fees. Some hospitals offer individual burial as well as cremation whilst others offer cremation only. Where your preference is burial and the hospital only offers cremation, you will need to consider making a private arrangement as discussed below.

Some hospitals will also arrange a burial or cremation where a number of babies are remembered at the funeral service. Some parents can draw comfort from knowing that their baby has been laid to rest with others.

If you prefer the hospital to make the arrangements it is important that you speak to the appropriate officer at the hospital so that you are aware of the date and time of the funeral. In most hospitals you can attend if you wish. You can also visit and speak to the manager of the cemetery or crematorium who will explain how and where burial takes place in the cemetery, or if in a crematorium, the area of the garden of remembrance where cremation memorials can be provided. It is important that you are satisfied with what will happen to your baby prior to the funeral as your decision may not be reversible after the funeral.

Irrespective of who makes the arrangements the cemetery or crematorium will have options for remembrance and memorials if you wish to arrange a form of commemoration.

Private Arrangements

You can make your own funeral arrangements should you wish. You would then have full control of the arrangements, including where and when the funeral is to take place. You would be responsible for any costs associated with the funeral, but these are likely to be at a reduced charge.

Whilst it might be a difficult task, you are advised to speak to more than one funeral director before making decisions as where charges are made these can be high in some locations and especially in cities.

Should you wish to make arrangements yourself without using a funeral director the cemetery or crematorium manager will assist you by showing you the available options and giving practical help and advice regarding certificates and forms required. Your detailed requirements for the funeral service can also be made directly.