

Further Information

If you have any questions or queries about the cremation of your baby, you can speak to Bereavement Services on 01733 262639. Further information and guidance is available in the leaflet '**Guidance to assist bereaved parents with making the decisions that are right for them.**' which is available from the Bereavement Services office.

Baby and Infant Funerals

Policy Statement Relating to the Cremation of Babies and Infants

Peterborough Crematorium
Mowbray Road
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Peterborough
PE6 7JE

Tel: 01733 262639

Member of the Charter for the Bereaved

Introduction

This Cremation Authority wishes it to be known that it 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 which are aligned to the latest guidance, which is fully supported by the national representative bodies, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA), The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), and The Cremation Society of Great Britain (CSGB)

Definition of 'ashes'

Whilst our employees might use the term 'ashes' and 'cremated remains' we deem these to be one and the same and defined as *'all that is left in the cremator at the end of the cremation process and following the removal of any metal'*. There might be a small number of cases where there are no ashes remaining at the end of the cremation process. If this is the case our staff will contact the Applicant for Cremation and advise them of this.

Maximising the recovery of ashes during cremation

We have developed an approach to the cremation of babies and infants that is designed to maximise the recovery of ashes. This includes the use of a cremation tray designed to retain the ashes where practicable, and the maintenance of operational conditions that will minimise the loss of any ashes during the process of cremation.

We will employ best practice e.g. the use of specialist computer programmes and metal trays and our staff will be vigilant during the cremation process and if appropriate will adjust operational conditions when necessary in order to protect the ashes of babies and infants and maximise their recovery.

We are confident that the equipment and processes adopted for infant cremation at Peterborough Crematorium maximise the likelihood of recovering ashes. In any rare instance of non-recovery of ashes, we will conduct a review of the cremation process within 48 hours to understand why this is the case. The results of this review will be documented and contain details of any adjustments of our procedure deemed to be necessary, and will be available to next of kin / parent(s) if they wish to view these.

We will adhere to our identification procedure that guarantees that the ashes resulting from individual cremations returned to parents are those of their baby.

Shared Cremations

Where a shared cremation has been authorised, and hence ashes are not individually identifiable, we will take the same care throughout the cremation process, including steps to maximise the recovery of ashes, and will scatter the ashes within the crematorium's designated area. The location will be recorded for future reference.

Disposal of Ashes

In relation to the disposal of ashes in the case of a private cremation, this Cremation Authority will only act upon written instruction of the parent who is acting as the Applicant for Cremation or other person nominated in writing by the parent.

In the case of shared cremations we will only act upon the written instruction of the designated person at the relevant hospital, who is acting as the Applicant.

Ashes will be held at the crematorium for up to 3 months to await collection by representatives or instructions as to their disposal.

Where no further instructions have been received within the three month period, a further fourteen days' notice will be given in writing to the Applicant, following which the ashes will be scattered within the grounds of the crematorium should no further instructions have been received.

Record Keeping

All Cremations of babies and infants will be registered at the crematorium, with all information as contained in forms and certificates being retained indefinitely.

If ashes are scattered within the grounds of the crematorium the final resting place will be registered. Where ashes are to be collected, the details of any person authorised by the Applicant to remove/collect the ashes will be registered.

The policy of this Cremation Authority is designed to provide an audit trail from the receipt of initial funeral instructions to the final disposal of ashes, either by collection from the crematorium or by scattering within the confines of the Gardens of Remembrance or other such designated area.