



Féileacáin

Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society of Ireland
(SANDAI)

Féileacáin was formed by a group of bereaved parents who wished to offer support to other parents whose baby had died.

At Féileacáin our mission is to:

- Offer support to anyone affected by the death of a baby
- Work with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services provided to bereaved parents and their families
- To support research into stillbirth and neonatal death

Please contact Feileacain on

085 2496464

Web: www.feileacain.ie

E-mail: info@feileacain.ie

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*Deciding about a funeral
for your baby*



Féileacáin

Deciding about a funeral



Making decisions about arranging a funeral for your baby can be very difficult. It is probably something you never thought that you would ever have to do. The bereavement support team at the hospital will usually help you decide about what sort of funeral you want for your baby. You have a couple of options available to you: you can choose between cremation and/or burial.

If you choose burial you may be offered a private burial which can take place in a new or existing family grave. Or you may

be offered a hospital burial where your baby may share a grave with other babies. If your baby is in a shared grave, you will probably not be able to place any kind of memorial on the grave. Some cemeteries have a separate section in another area of the graveyard for memorials or memorial plaques. Some have regulations about the type of memorials that are allowed. You may want to ask about this. Most cemeteries have a book of remembrance and you can arrange for your baby's name to be entered into this.

Whichever sort of funeral you decide on; there are choices you can make. You may want to have your baby dressed in a particular outfit or wrapped in a special shawl. You may also want to ask the funeral director to put special items into your baby's coffin, such as a soft toy, a letter, a poem or a family photograph. Some parents keep an identical outfit, a shawl, a toy, a letter, a poem or family photograph as a memento. Many parents have found it helpful to swap the teddy bears that they received within the "Remembering..." Memory Box, keeping the

one that spent the most time with their baby. Older brothers and sisters may wish to give a drawing to the baby. Remember that you can spend as much time as you wish with your baby, prior to the funeral and when the time comes for you to say your final goodbye, make sure that you are happy you have done everything you wanted to do.

Cremation

If your baby is going to be cremated, the crematorium staff may remove some items from the coffin before the cremation. These are usually anything made of glass, and some metals. Any items that are removed should be returned to you. If you are concerned about this, you may want to contact the funeral director or the crematorium to find out what you can put in your baby's coffin.

Please bear in mind that in some crematoriums when a baby is cremated there may be no ashes, please enquire locally regarding this. Some crematoriums also have a book of remembrance and you can arrange for your baby's name to be entered into this.

Arranging a funeral yourself



You may prefer to arrange and pay for your baby's funeral yourself. Your midwife or a member of the hospital social work team should be able to help you with this. Most funeral directors will also have experience conducting the funerals of babies and should be able to answer any questions that you have. You may also seek support from Féileacáin on 085 2496464 or consult our website where there is a downloadable personalised leaflet for suggestions on how to conduct a funeral for your baby.