



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

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*Deciding about
a post mortem*



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Deciding about a post mortem



A post mortem examination of your baby's body and of the placenta (afterbirth) may help discover why your baby died; it may confirm any anomalies that were identified by earlier tests and investigation, may also help to assess the risk of the same issues arising in the future. Post mortems can also contribute to research into why babies die. However not all post mortems provide definitive answers and sometimes no reason can be found for a baby's death.

It can be difficult to decide whether or not to have a post mortem. Many parents urgently want to find out the reasons for their baby's death. Others are unsure, or want their baby to be left in peace. Some refuse post mortem for religious reasons, while others agree to post mortem, in spite of religious teaching because they need to find out why their baby died. If you are considering a postmortem a member of the support team will talk to you about what is involved and will answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

Discussing a post mortem

A senior member of staff will talk to you about a post mortem and will go through the consent or authorisation form with you and discuss with you what is involved in the procedure.

A post mortem is carried out by a pathologist. Before the post mortem, some parents dress or wrap their baby in a special shawl, or place a small cuddly toy with him or her. The staff member should ensure that these items stay with your baby and are returned with him or her.

"The nurse asked me if there were any particular clothes I wanted my daughter dressed in, so I gave them a beautiful outfit that I had bought for her. I was so glad when we got her back and she was wearing it, she also had her Féileacáin teddy bear with her. It was a relief to know that someone had cared enough for her to mind her for me." Mother

Waiting for the results

Post mortem results can take several weeks or months particularly if specialist tests are carried out. In most cases, the funeral can be held as soon as the post mortem examination itself is completed. There is no need to wait for the post mortem results.

Many parents find waiting for the post mortem results very stressful. You should be given an appointment with your consultant obstetrician or your baby's neonatologist to discuss the findings.

Remember you can contact Féileacáin for support around any of these issues by phoning us on 085 2496464, facebook or emailing us at: support@feileacain.ie

