



Féileacáin (Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Association of Ireland)
- support for anyone affected by the death of a baby around the time of birth

- Remembering...Memory Boxes
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- Social Work Service
- Training & Research
- Resources to Maternity Hospitals
- Arts and Craft Workshops




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(Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Association of Ireland)

Email: info@feileacain.ie **Helpline:** 085 2496464

37 North St., Skibbereen, Co. Cork

Tel: 028 22407 **Fax:** 028 22048 **Email:** admin@feileacain.ie  Like us on facebook



Féileacáin

(Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Association of Ireland)




*Support for you
when your baby dies...*

Supporting families bereaved through stillbirth or neonatal death, providing resources to maternity hospitals, training and advice to health professionals and promoting research into the causes of perinatal loss.

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Féileacáin is a fully voluntary organisation formed by a group of parents bereaved through stillbirth and neonatal death in order to create a support service for other bereaved parents, to promote good practice in the care of families facing the death of a baby around the time of birth and to support research initiatives into the causes of perinatal death in Ireland.

Féileacáin is deeply committed to providing a dedicated quality bereavement support service to families who need it and to work closely with the professionals involved in the care of families at this sad and traumatic time. Services provided by Féileacáin:

Remembering ...Memory Boxes

Every maternity hospital in Ireland has been provided with the Féileacáin Memory Boxes which are available to all parents when their baby dies. Each Remembering...Memory Box contains:

- A hand knitted blanket for parents to wrap their baby in or to lay over him or her at the time of burial.
- A single use camera so parents may take precious photographs of their baby.
- A kit to take hand and footprints of their baby.
- Information leaflets on coping with the many facets of infant death.
- A little butterfly memento box within which to keep a lock of the baby's hair.
- A hand-made card and album for parents to note their baby's details.
- Two identical Teddy Bears – one for the baby and one for the parents; these may be swapped over just before burial.



The Remembering...Memory Boxes are also available in some Accident and Emergency Departments throughout the country as well as Hospices and Infant Palliative Care Settings. Parents have told us how valuable the Memory Box has been in helping them to cope with the loss of their baby and support them in their grief.

If you are facing infant loss please ask your mid-wife for a Memory Box or contact Féileacáin to have one provided to you.

Support Meetings

Parent Support Meetings are held regularly throughout the country and details may be found on our website or facebook page. You may also email or phone us for information on meetings in your area. Parent Support Meetings provide a safe space in which families bereaved through stillbirth or neonatal death can share their experiences in the company of others who have also lost a baby. There is no pressure on parents to talk if they don't want to and many mothers and fathers tell us that it is enough just to be with others who understand what they are going through.

Befriending Service and Support Helpline

To meet with another bereaved parent or just to talk about how you are coping please call us on **085 2496464**.

On-line Support Service – face book, email and forum

On-line support is available through email and private messaging on facebook. Like us on facebook and join the parents' forum through the web site to chat with other bereaved parents.

Low-Cost Counselling and Psychotherapy Service

The Féileacáin low cost counselling and psychotherapy service is provided by a fully trained and accredited psychotherapist who is herself a bereaved parent. To access this service phone us on **085 2496464** to arrange an appointment.

Social Work Service

Féileacáin also offers a social work service which may be accessed by emailing us at **info@feileacain.ie** or phone us on **085 2496464**. More information on this service may be found on our web site.

Training and Research

Training for professionals is available on a number of issues pertaining to infant loss. Groups who have benefited from this training include social workers, counsellors and psychotherapists, midwives, public health nurses and medical students among others. To access training contact us at the above numbers.

Féileacáin is a member of the International Stillbirth Alliance and has presented at the international stillbirth conference hosted by this group (see link on website to ISA and conference proceedings). The organisation is also represented in a number of national and international bodies including the Parent Advisory Committee to the ISA, NPEC (National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre), Patient Champions and other groups noted on our web site. Check the website for downloadable documents and links to relevant research.

Workshops

Arts and craft workshops are held regularly throughout the country and are very popular with bereaved families. There are children's as well as adult focussed workshops and include; card-making, jewellery making, crochet and knitting, leaded glass, paper craft and flower arranging with wreath making, as well as quilting and other craft work. The workshops which are free of charge, are open to anyone affected by the death of a baby including siblings, aunts and uncles, grandparents and friends.

Remembrance Services and Events

Remembrance Services are held throughout the year in locations all over the country. The Services are both non and inter-denominational and all are welcome. Information on Remembrances Services is posted regularly on facebook and also on our web site. Annual Remembrance Services are held in Cork, West Cork, Dublin, Cavan, Carrick-on-Shannon and Galway, with other Services organised to meet demand.

Cuddle Cots

Through the generosity of bereaved families from all over the country, each maternity unit in Ireland has accepted at least one Cuddle Cot to help them support families who have lost their child. The Cuddle Cot, which looks like a conventional Moses basket with a cooling unit underneath means that parents can now have their baby in the room with them for as long as they wish and some maternity units allow parents to take the cuddle cot home if they wish to have their baby with them prior to burial.

If a Cuddle Cot is not available in the hospital please contact us on **085 2496464** and we will try to source one for you. Féileacáin expects to have a Cuddle Cot in each area by the end of 2014 for use by families who wish to bring their baby home prior to burial or cremation.

For more information on the Cuddle Cot Unit phone or email us on the contact details provided.