

Hospital Support in Making Funeral 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 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 outlined below. If you prefer the hospital to make 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.

Funeral Director support in Making Funeral 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, where applicable. Whilst it might be a difficult task you are advised to speak to more than one Funeral Director before making any decision. This is to ensure you are comfortable with the Funeral Director of choice and are clear as to what fees they may charge. Should you wish to decide yourself without using a Funeral Director the Bereavement Care Office can assist you by showing you the available options and giving practical help and advice regarding certificates and forms required.

Useful Websites: -

www.uhd.nhs.uk

Bournemouth Hospital – 01202 303626, **Poole Hospital** – 01202 665511, **Christchurch Hospital** – 01202 486361

www.sands.org.uk - **SANDS** is a well-known national organisation that provides help and support to bereaved parents via a network of local groups.

SANDS Helpline on 0808 1643332 is available if you would like to speak to someone or be put in touch with your nearest **SANDS** group.

Provided by



Information & Guidance Baby & Infant Funerals



Bereavement Care Offices: -

Bournemouth Crematorium, Strouden Avenue, B'Mouth, BH8 9HX
Poole Crematorium, Gravel Hill, Poole, BH17 9BQ

Contact us for more support & guidance at: -

bereavementcare@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

01202 128111

Nikki Lynch Bereavement Care Manager: -

nicola.lynch@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

A Message to Our Bereaved Parents:

The loss of a baby at any stage of pregnancy or shortly after birth is a very traumatic and difficult time. We are here to support, guide and help you through the process as much as is possible. The information in this leaflet will explain in brief your options and help you make decisions about the funeral arrangements for your baby. BCP Bereavement Care has adopted the Charter for the Bereaved and are committed to providing the highest level of service for little ones and their bereaved parents/families. Remember, it is your right to be able to arrange a private funeral that meets your wishes, whether they be religious or simply personal to you, at a cemetery or crematorium of your choosing. Alternatively, most hospitals will plan for a communal cremation service, as detailed within this leaflet. The information below is designed to help you make decisions about your preferred choices and the options available within BCP Bereavement Care, for you to read as and when you feel ready to do so. Further help is also available through the Bereavement Care Offices, Funeral Directors, and the University Hospitals Dorset Patient Affairs Department.

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 Options:

We have dedicated children's sections within North Cemetery, Kinson Cemetery, Jumpers Road Cemetery (Christchurch) Poole Cemetery (Snowdrop Garden) Our children's graves are small and can accommodate a burial of a child up to the age of approximately 5/6 years old, or multiple burials of cremated remains. We can accommodate burials of older children within our adult sections of the cemeteries. This gives you the option as parents/carers to be reunited with your little one when the time comes, having a full body burial for yourselves if you so wish.

Headstones:

If you wish to have a headstone for your little one, you will first need to purchase the 'Right of Burial' to the grave space. Purchase forms can be downloaded from www.bcpbereavementcare.co.uk/or contact the office directly for more guidance. We can help you to choose your stonemason and guide you through fees that may be applicable.

Cremation Options:

At Bournemouth Crematorium we welcome individual cremation services and/or communal cremation services, usually organised either through the hospital, or, via a Funeral Director of your choice.

Communal services are where various babies, below 24-weeks' gestation, are committed for cremation together. These services take place the last Tuesday of every month at 10:00am, with babies from both Bournemouth and Poole Hospital being cared for within the one service. Some parents can draw comfort for knowing their baby has been laid to rest with others. Ashes recovered from the communal cremation are scattered in the Butterfly Garden within the natural flower area. The scattering takes place on the 15th day after the date of the cremation service, at 9.30am, with parent(s) and families are welcome to attend. We have adopted the Institute of Cemetery and Crematoria Management policy and good practice guidance for the sensitive recovery of ashes. More information can be found at www.bcpbereavementcare.co.uk

Commemorative Memorialisation: -

We offer various commemorative memorials for you to choose from. Our dedicated Baby Butterfly Garden, located at the Bournemouth Crematorium/North Cemetery, is a place of reflection and contemplation to the memory of all children. You are welcome to visit the Butterfly Garden and discuss your options with a member of our team or simply visit www.bcpbereavementcare.co.uk for more information. The strewing of the cremated remains of babies can be scattered in the Butterfly Garden within the natural flower area.

Financial Support: -

We will guide you through all your options for financial support and claim back fees from the CFF Fund, where possible. All cremation and burial fees that are incurred and claimable from the CFF will be done so directly from the Bereavement Care Office and/or Funeral Director, taking the stress and worry away from you. Financial guidance and support can be found via: -

Support for Child Funeral Costs (Children's Funeral Fund for England) www.gov.uk/child-funeral-costs

Child Funeral Charity, Financial Support for Families www.childfuneralcharity.org.uk