

What Happens Now?

Practical advice and guidance following the death of a child



We are so sorry that your child has died. The death of a child is a devastating experience. The effects of grief can be overwhelming and it can be hard to take in information. We hope that this leaflet will help you through the next few days. If anything is unclear please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff caring for you.

If the death of your child was **expected** you may already have a named children's community nurse or nurse specialist who will be in touch with you to support you at this difficult time. In addition you may meet a key worker who will also be available for further support and advice.

If the death of your child was **sudden and unexpected** you will be given a named key worker. They will be in touch with you as soon as possible. Their role is to support and guide you through the process and they will be able to give you further information and guidance. Their contact number is at the end of this leaflet.

Registration of death in an expected child death

All deaths must be registered before a funeral can take place. In the event of an expected child death the doctor caring for your child will have filled out a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) which states your child's cause of death. This will be forwarded digitally to the hospital medical examiner team for review.

One of the medical examiner team will contact you by phone within the first few working days following receipt of the MCCD to discuss what has been recorded by the hospital. If the Medical Examiner is in agreement with the cause of death provided by the Doctor, they will sign off the MCCD and forward this to the registry office.

You will then be able to phone the registry office in the area where your child has died to make your appointment. Appointments at the registry office must be made once the MCCD has been forwarded to the registrars by the Medical Examiner Team and you will need to do so within 5 days. A small fee will be charged for the certified copy of the death certificate. Further copies may also be purchased.

Child deaths at Calderdale Royal Hospital will need to be registered at:

The Calderdale Register Office:

Spring Hall Mansion
Huddersfield Road
Halifax
HX3 OAQ

Tel: 01422 288080

Child deaths at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary will need to be registered at:

Huddersfield Register Office:

Civic Centre 1
High Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2NF

Tel: 01484 221030

Registration of death in a sudden and unexpected child death

When a child's death is **sudden and unexpected** the doctor caring for your child will not be able to fill out a death certificate because the cause of death is unclear. Your child's death will have been referred to a coroner. It is likely that a post-mortem will need to be carried out in order to find out why your child has died. In this situation the registration of your child's death and funeral can only take place once the post-mortem has happened and you have been issued with the death certificate or appropriate form from the coroner. Your key worker will provide you with more information on this process and is available to contact with any queries you may have.

Who to inform about your child's death

The hospital will inform some of the people who need to know that your child has died such as health visiting service, schools and your child's GP. You will need to let other people who came into contact with your child know that they have died. This will be hard and you may need help to make further calls. Your community nurse or keyworker will be happy to help you with this.

Your child's funeral

You can contact a funeral director of your choice as soon as you feel able to. The advice of a representative of your faith may help you. You may also want to consider alternative forms of non-religious service.

Whilst there should be no charges for the burial or cremation of any child there may be some additional costs that you may need to pay. Please speak to your community nurse, key worker or chosen funeral director for further advice.

Help and Support

The death of a child is a deeply distressing event that effects the whole family. Support and advice is available for you from the hospital and many sources online and via local groups. The following contact numbers may be helpful. Your community nurse or key worker will be able to provide additional contacts.

Help and Support Contact Numbers

Key Worker for Child Death - 07557078323

Children's Ward 3 - 01422 223277

Calderdale Royal Hospital switchboard - 01422 357171

Huddersfield Royal Infirmary switchboard - 01484 342000

Hospital Chaplains/Imams The hospital chaplaincy team are here to support you and can be contacted via HRI and CRH Switchboard Tel 01484 342000 or 01422 357171

Child Bereavement UK Supports families when a baby or child of any age dies 08000288840
<http://childbereavementuk.org>

Child Death Helpline Free-phone service for all of those affected by the death of a baby or child 00800282986 and 08088006019 <http://childdeathhelpline.org.uk>

The Lullaby Trust Offers support to families following the sudden and unexpected death of their baby or young child 08088026868 www.lullabytrust.org.uk

SANDS Support for anyone affected by stillbirth, neonatal and other sudden death of a baby 08081643332 www.uk-sands.org

Winston's Wish Helpline Support for children and Young people after a death 08452030405
www.winstonswish.org.uk

Samaritans Free on 116 123 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Key Worker for Child Death
Calderdale Royal Hospital and Huddersfield Royal Infirmary

Telephone Number: 07557078323

Ward 3 Managers
Calderdale Royal Hospital

Telephone Number: 01422 223277

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce,
obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych
informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej,
prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww.
danych kontaktowych

ਚ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੂਰ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਬਿਚਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم
المذكور أعلاه"