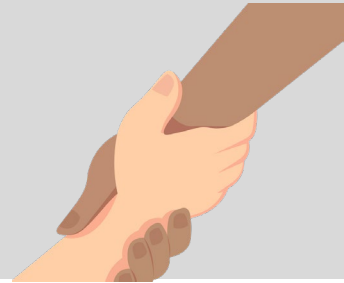


Funeral, Burial, Cremation Services



Planning a funeral or memorial service:

Excerpted from SHARE: *Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support*

Website: <https://nationalshare.org/planning-a-funeral-or-memorial-service/>

- Follow religious traditions that are important to you, but it is also okay to create new traditions.
- Let other people help you.
- Ask to see and hold your baby one last time if you want to.
- Ask for what you want. No matter what it is, if it is something important to you, tell the funeral director and/or pastor your wishes.
- Know that not all parents are comforted by the same things. It is okay to not find comfort in scriptures and other religious practices, even if at other times, these same things brought you peace.
- Be aware that there is no right or wrong way to plan a farewell service. Whatever you as parents choose to do will be the “right” thing. Personalize the service as much as you can to make it meaningful and special.
- If you choose not to involve a funeral home and have a funeral, or if you do not have a gravesite or urn, you may decide instead to hold a prayer service or remembrance gathering to honor your baby. This can be held at a church, home, park, garden, or other meaningful place. This allows you to choose exactly when you want it to take place—soon after your baby’s death, on a holiday, on an anniversary or even your baby’s due date.
- It is okay to wait to have a service. While some religious doctrines require a funeral and burial within a certain time frame after a death, not all do. It is acceptable to postpone. Do not let anyone pressure you or rush you into making decisions.
- Many funeral homes and cemeteries offer burial services for babies free of charge; call around to find one in your area that offers this. If it is too difficult for you, consider asking a trusted friend or family member to make those calls for you.
- It is possible to have a small graveside service or a private memorial service if you are not up to a full funeral.
- You may wish to be involved in your baby’s funeral by reading a poem, saying a prayer, or even singing a song.
- If you have other children, they may find great comfort in participating in the service in some way. Children often like to write and read poems, sing a song, or even create artwork that can be used in the program.
- Consider having family members or close friends participate in some way as it can add a special touch that you will always remember. Someone who enjoys writing poetry may want to write a



special poem, or perhaps you have someone close to you who enjoys singing or playing a musical instrument. Any of these things can add a personal touch that you will remember in years to come.

- It may seem foreign to you, but you might want to consider videotaping or photographing parts of the service. This may not be acceptable in some cultures or religions.
- While some faiths and cultures require funerals and memorial services to only be held in a place of worship, it is not uncommon for parents to host their baby's farewell ritual at a park, lake, or other meaningful place that is special to them.
- Music and readings are typically an important part of a funeral or memorial service. Often, songs are chosen that were favorites of the person who died or are celebratory in nature. When a baby dies, those types of songs do not seem appropriate, and you may agonize over what songs to include. While some places of worship and cultures allow only certain religious songs, others are more flexible, and you may want to choose more "popular" songs. There are now many artists who write and sing songs specifically about the death of a baby, but you may also want to consider songs that are meaningful to you or that remind you of your pregnancy and baby.
- Those who are grieving often find great solace in poems and songs. Including poems in the service can be the perfect way for bereaved parents to put their deep feelings of grief and strong emotions into words that may otherwise be difficult to express. The following are some ways you may want to consider including special songs and poetry into your baby's service:
 - Where your service is held may dictate what types of songs you can play. Some places of worship may not allow secular music, but you may be able to play a special song at the gravesite. If your service is held somewhere other than a church, you will likely be able to choose whatever songs you wish.
 - You may want to use the words of a song as a reading or poem.
 - A more informal service can include a video montage of pictures with a favorite song or two playing in the background.
 - You may want to play a lullaby or other song that is meaningful to you and to your family.
 - If you have a family member or friend who plays an instrument, it can be a beautiful and soothing part of the ceremony to have them play.
 - The words from a children's book can be a reading at the funeral.
 - Favorite quotes can also be added to slideshows, programs and prayer cards.

While planning a baby's funeral is likely not something you have done before or even considered doing, a personalized goodbye ritual can be very meaningful and healing. SHARE has other resources if you need more guidance or consider purchasing [*Bittersweet...hellogoodbye: A Resource in Planning Farewell Rituals When a Baby Dies*](#), which offers extensive readings, poems, songs and other ideas to memorialize your baby in the coming months and years.

Stillborn and infant cremation services:

Infant cremation typically costs between \$350 and \$850 for families keeping the ashes.

- **Alpha Society Cremation Service**
(818) 972-9194
3006 West Burbank Blvd, Burbank 91505
<https://www.thealphasocietymortuary.com/>
- **Cedar Hill Mortuary**
(323) 255-0710
1722 Colorado Blvd. Los Angeles 90041
<https://www.cedarhillmortuary.com/>
- **Lighthouse Memorials and Receptions**
(310) 792-7599
Locations in Redondo Beach, Torrance, Gardena, and Inglewood
<https://lafuneral.com/>
- **Douglas Mortuaries**
(310) 640-9325
500 East Imperial Ave, El Segundo, 90245
<https://douglassmortuaryelsegundo.com/>
- **Hillside Memorial Park & Mortuary**
(310) 641-0707 – Jewish families only
6001 West Centinela Ave, Los Angeles, 90045
<https://www.hillsidememorial.org/>
- **National Cremation Service**
(818) 658-2421
10559 Victory Blvd, North Hollywood, 91606
<https://www.nationalcremation.com/location/north-hollywood>
- **Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Mortuary**
(310) 474-1579
1218 Glendon Ave, Westwood, 90024
<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/funeral-homes/los-angeles-ca/pierce-brothers-westwood-village-memorial-park-and-mortuary/4798>
- **Praisewater Meyer Mitchell**
(818) 785-8617
5940 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, 90401
<https://www.imortuary.com/funeral-homes/california/van-nuys/praisewater-meyer-mitchell-mortuary/>
- **Ruckers Mortuary**
(818) 899-1138
12460 Van Nuys Blvd, Pacoima, 91331
<http://ruckersmortuary.com/>
- **Rose Hills Mortuary**
(562) 699-0921
3888 Workman Mill Rd, Whittier, CA 90601
<https://www.rosehills.com/contact-u>



Assistance with funeral/medical expenses and funeral assistance for pregnancy/infant loss:

- Angel Names Association (for stillbirths, at least 20 weeks gestation) <https://angelnames.org/>
- Flutter By Izzy Jane (for stillbirths, at least 24 weeks gestation) <https://flutterbyizzyjanefoundation.org>
- The Luca John Foundation (for the loss of a child 12 months or younger, or stillborn) <https://lucajohnfoundation.com/>
- The Tears Foundation: (for babies 20 weeks gestation to 1 year old) in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado (Western), Delaware, Florida (Volusia, Flagler, and St. John's counties), Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (Upstate), North Carolina, North Dakota (Western Region), Pennsylvania, Texas (Bastrop, Bell, McLennan, Limestone, Freestone, Williamson, Travis Counties), Washington or Wyoming. <https://thetearsfoundation.org/apply/>

Funeral assistance for child loss:

- Final Farewell (for the loss of a child under the age of 18) <http://www.finalfarewell.org/>
- Tears Foundation (funeral assistance for children between 1 and 12 years old, who die from external causes such as Suicide, Accident, or Sudden Unexplained Death of a Child). Applications accepted for families residing, or if child died, in one of the following areas: Alaska, Arizona, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota (Western Region), Texas Hillcountry (Bastrop, Bell, Travis and Williamson counties), Washington or Wyoming.). <https://thetearsfoundation.org/apply/>
- Tears Foundation (Funeral assistance and/or Grief Counseling Support for those whose child is between 13 – 22 years old and died due to drug related causes and/or death by suicide.)

For more information contact Margaret Pilon, Program Director, at (253) 590-7373 or calisgift@thetearsfoundation.org

- Raise for Rowyn (for the loss of a child in WA, ID, OR, MT, WY, UT, AZ) <https://www.raiseforrowyn.org/>
- Ike and Ella Fund (for the loss of a child in MI, IN, OH) <https://www.ikeandellafund.org/>
- Walk in Sunshine Charity (for the loss of a child under 18, in Westfield, NJ) <https://walkinsunshinecharity.org/>
- The Unforgettables Foundation (help is granted to families across Riverside and San Bernardino counties in CA, also Southern NV and OH) <http://unforgettables.org/>
- 3 "A" Bereavement Foundation (Harris & Fort Bend counties, TX) <https://3abereavement.weebly.com/>



Assistance with medical bills associated with pregnancy loss:

- Hayden's Helping Hands (for stillbirths, at least 20 weeks gestation) <https://www.haydenshelpinghands.com/>
- The Fletcher Foundation (for medical bills associated with miscarriage or stillbirth) <https://thefletcherfoundation.org/>

OTHER RESOURCES

- Colette Louise Tisdahl Foundation (help with costs associated with pregnancy complications & post-loss expenses) <https://colettelouise.com/>
- Audrey & McKenna Foundation (no cost cremation boxes for families who have lost a child) <https://audreyandmckenna.org/>
- Little Love Foundation (list of resources for pregnancy and infant loss support) <http://littlelovefoundation.blogspot.com/p/resources-financial-assistance-for.html>
- Walk in Sunshine charity <https://www.walkinsunshinecharity.org/copy-of-resources>
- National Share <http://nationalshare.org/>
- Metro Detroit Share Foundation <https://www.metrodetroitshare.org/resources--links.html>

