



Rights of Parents When a Baby Dies

- To be given the opportunity to see, hold, touch, and bathe their baby at any time before and/ or after death within reason.
- To have photographs of their baby taken and made available to the parents or held in a secure place until the parents wish to see them.
- To be given as many mementos as possible, e.g., crib card, baby beads, ultrasound and / or other photos, lock of hair, baby clothing and blankets, feet and hand prints and/or permanent molds and record of weight and length.
- To name their child and bond with him or her.
- To observe cultural and religious practices.
- To be cared for by an empathetic staff who will respect their feelings, thoughts, beliefs and individual requests.
- To be with each other throughout hospitalization as much as possible.
- To be given time alone with their baby, allowing for individual needs.
- To be informed of the grieving process.
- To be given the option of donating their baby's cartilage, tissue and/or organs for transplant, their baby's body to science or breast milk to a milk bank.
- To request an autopsy. In the case of miscarriage, to request to have or not have an autopsy or pathology exam as determined by applicable law.
- To have information presented in terminology understandable to the parents regarding their baby's status and cause of death, including autopsy and pathology reports and medical records.
- To plan a farewell ritual, burial or cremation in compliance with local and state regulations and according to their personal beliefs, religious or cultural tradition.
- To be provided with information on support resources which assist in the healing process, e.g., local support groups, perinatal loss internet support, counseling, reading material and perinatal loss newsletters.