



# Féileacáin

Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society of Ireland  
(SANDAI)

Féileacáin was formed by a group of bereaved parents who wished to offer support to other parents whose baby had died.

At Féileacáin our mission is to:

- Offer support to anyone affected by the death of a baby
- Work with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services provided to bereaved parents and their families
- To support research into stillbirth and neonatal death

Please contact Feileacain on

**085 2496464**

Web: [www.feileacain.ie](http://www.feileacain.ie)

E-mail: [info@feileacain.ie](mailto:info@feileacain.ie)

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*Other mementoes*



**Féileacáin**

## Other mementoes



The mementoes you can collect depend on the stage your pregnancy had reached. They may include, for example, a scan picture, your baby's cord clamp, a name band, a copy of a section of the monitor trace showing your baby's heart rate before or during labour, or a cot card. Some parents keep the clothes their baby wore, or the shawl that he or she was wrapped in. You might also like to keep a lock of your baby's hair and prints of your baby's hand and feet using the kit provided in the Féileacáin memory box.

These "Remembering....." Memory boxes are provided free of charge by Féileacáin to each maternity unit in Ireland. If your maternity hospital does not have Memory Boxes in stock please contact Féileacáin on 085-2496464 and we can arrange for one to be given to you. A leaflet on the suggested use of the Memory Box is also contained within the box.

As well as the mementoes mentioned above, you may want to keep other mementoes such as photos of the flowers at the funeral and those placed on the baby's grave, the order of service from the funeral, poems, condolence letters, emails and cards, and anything else that helps you to remember your baby.

## A Ceremony for your baby

Depending on your own personal beliefs, you may want to have a baby blessing or other ceremony. You may want to invite family members to join you. You may want to ask someone to lead the ceremony, for example, your own religious leader, a friend or relative, a humanist celebrant, or someone from the hospital chaplaincy team.

Take time in deciding what sort of funeral service you would like. Re-

member that you do not have to rush into a funeral – you may wish to wait until you are feeling fit enough to attend the funeral yourself (especially if the baby was delivered by Caesarean section). Some hospitals offer a service or you may organise your own funeral in conjunction with your own priest or religious leader.

Most hospitals now have representatives of different faiths on their chaplaincy team. Members of the team spend much of their time offering support and listening to the bereaved. You don't have to want a ceremony or be religious to talk to a member of the chaplaincy team. If you would like to see a hospital chaplain, or to ask them to contact a member of your own faith to visit you, tell your midwife or nurse.

## Hospital Memorial Books and Services



Many hospitals have a memorial book for babies who have died. In some hospitals, parents' inscriptions are written in the book by a calligrapher and the relevant page is opened on the baby's anniversary. In other hospitals, parents write their own messages. Some families write about their babies, others write poems, draw pictures or put in photos. The memorial book is usually kept in the maternity unit, the neonatal unit or the hospital chapel so that parents can return to view it or to add to it whenever they want to.

If you have not been told about a memorial book, you could ask a staff member if there is one and where it is kept.

Many hospitals also hold an annual memorial service for all the babies who have died during the year. Some memorial services are open to all parents whenever their babies died. These services are non-denominational; bereaved parents of all faiths and none are invited to attend.