



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

E-mail: info@feileacain.ie

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*Support for you
when your baby dies*



Féileacáin

Introduction

We are so sorry that your baby son or daughter has died. Féileacáin has put together a number of leaflets that we hope will help you through the next few days, weeks and months. We have compiled these leaflets for all parents whose baby has died, including parents who have had twins, triplets or more. The information contained in our leaflets is based on what many bereaved parents have told us what they needed to know at the time of their baby's death.

Féileacáin understands that there is a huge range of information to take in at such a difficult time, and that is why we suggest that you read those leaflets that are important to you now, and leave the rest until you are ready.

- If you have already left hospital and are reading this for the first time, some sections may no longer be relevant to you. But we hope that you will find the rest of the leaflets useful.
- If your baby died in the neonatal unit, you may already have started to do some of the things that we suggest here. Again, we hope that you will find the remainder of the leaflets of use.
- If your baby has died before 24 weeks of pregnancy, your feelings are very likely to be the same as those of parents whose baby was stillborn later in pregnancy. Some hospital staff may use the term "late miscarriage". You may find this term very upsetting and feel that it does not fully recognize the significance of your loss. However, it is used because the legal requirements for registration and funerals for babies born at this time are different.

Taking your baby home

Some parents decide to take their baby home from the hospital while others may take their baby to a place that has special meaning to them.

If you would like to take your baby out of the hospital, inform the midwife or nurse of your intention. They should provide you with information about keeping your baby as cool as possible. Féileacáin has provided each maternity hospital in Ireland with a "Cuddle cot" for this purpose. Ask your midwife or nurse about this option. They should also advise you when you need to bring your baby back or take him or her to the funeral director. If for whatever reason the option

of a "Cuddle cot" is not available to you, please make contact with Féileacáin on 085-2496464 where we will try to source one for you.

If you are arranging your baby's funeral yourself, you can keep your baby at home until this takes place. However, we suggest that you ask the hospital staff, funeral director or Féileacáin for advice about how, and for how long, to keep your baby at home.

