

The Review of All Child Deaths

Government legislation requires that the Local Safeguarding Children Board review the deaths of every child and young person in their area. This is because it is believed by reviewing all deaths it may help services working with children and families in the future as well as ensuring you receive all the information about the circumstances of your child's death and the support you may need.

If your child's death is unexpected you may have contact with a small group of professionals who will explore the circumstances surrounding the death. For more details please refer to the CDOP leaflet.

For further information on Bereavement Services in Bexley you can contact the Child Death Overview Administrator on: 0208 836 8320

Bexley



Local Safeguarding
Children Board

Useful National Resources

CRUSE Bereavement Care

www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk
Tel: 0844 477 9400

London Bereavement Network

www.bereavement.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends

www.tcf.org.uk
Tel: 0845 1232304

The Child Death Helpline

www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk
Tel: 0800 282986

The Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society

www.uk-sands.org
Tel: 020 7436 5881

Child Bereavement Trust

www.childbereavement.org.uk
Tel: 01494 446648

Childhood Bereavement Network

www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk
Tel: 020 7843 6309

The Death of Our Child



For a parent there is nothing more devastating than the death of a child. There are no short cuts through grieving, some days will be better than others, grief cannot be hurried.

This leaflet provides some basic information on who is there to help and support you through this time.

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Hospital

Hospital staff are there to support you and provide you with the information on registering the death, role of the coroner and funeral arrangements.

Your GP or Health Visitor will also be able to offer you support at this time, and into the future, so do not hesitate to ask them.

Registering the death

You will be given a medical certificate that states the cause of your child's death. This will be in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Registrar. The envelope must remain sealed and should be taken to the Registrars office within 5 working days of your child's death. You will need to take information with you, and make an appointment, so if you are not sure, contact them, the address is:

Registrar for Births & Deaths
Manor House, The Green, Sidcup, Kent
Tel: 0208 300 4537

In certain circumstance, however the doctor may not be able to issue a medical certificate of cause of death, and the death may need to be reported to the coroner, who subsequently will send information to the Registrar.

Role of the Coroner

When there is a sudden, unexpected death the Coroner will be informed. Coroners are independent judicial officers appointed by the Council to investigate sudden or unexplained deaths. The Coroner may arrange a post mortem examination to establish the cause of death. If this reveals an unnatural cause of death (this includes accidents), they will open and adjourn an inquest pending the gathering of further information.

For additional information on the work of coroners contact the Department for Constitutional Affairs, Coroners Division on 020 7210 0049, or go to www.dca.gov.uk

Bereavement Support in Bexley

In Bexley bereavement support can be accessed through your GP.

CRUSE are based at the United Reform Church, Geddes Place, Bexleyheath where they operate a drop in on Thursday's from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. They can be contacted on 0208 304 5245.

Additional support for your children is available through Bexley Care Trust and you can find out about this through your GP or Health Visitor.