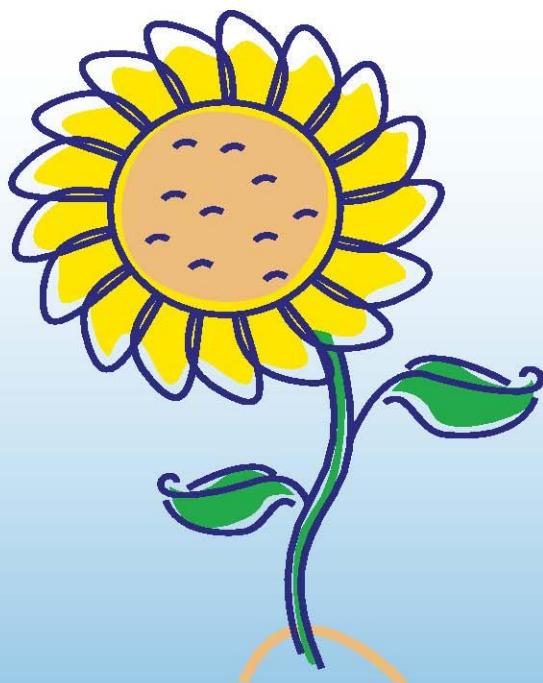


# **When Your Child Dies**

**A Guide for Parents and Carers**



## **CONTENTS**

Offer of sympathy

Feelings of grief

Brothers and sisters

Visiting your child

The Medical Certificate of Cause of Death and Registering the Death

Location Map Southport Register Office

Location Map Ormskirk Register Office

What is a post mortem?

Family Liaison Officer

The Funeral Arrangements

Organ and Tissue Donation

Mementos

Who else needs to know?

Further contact with the hospital

Remembrance book

Useful contact numbers

Local Funeral Directors

## **OFFER OF SYMPATHY**

There are no words to make this time any easier for you. We have prepared this booklet to help you through some of the issues facing you in the next few weeks.

At this time there are many decisions that need to be made and often within a short space of time.

This booklet is designed to guide you through these decisions ensuring you are fully informed of all the options available to you. The booklet is an aid only, and if you have any questions or difficulties please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Paediatric Accident and Emergency  
Ormskirk (01695) 656674**

**Paediatric Ward  
Ormskirk (01695) 656912**

**Hospital Switchboard  
(01704) 547471**

**Your Named Nurse is .....**

**Your Child's Consultant is .....**

## **FEELINGS OF GRIEF**

No one can explain what feelings you will experience following the death of your child and everyone grieves differently and experiences different feelings.

Dealing with the death of a child is a particularly difficult kind of loss. Parents never expect their child to die before them. It is normal to feel a mixture of emotions and some parents find it useful to talk through these feelings whereas others prefer not to.

You may find it useful to talk to your family, friends, colleagues or you may prefer to talk to someone who listens to what you are feeling such as a support group or another bereaved parent.

Contact details of these services and groups are in the back of this booklet.

## **BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

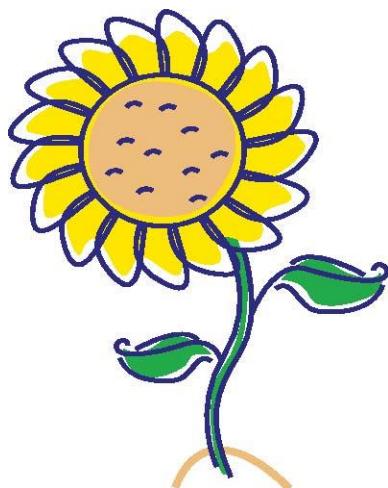
Your Child's brothers and sisters are also grieving at this time and will experience different emotions which will vary depending on your child's age. It is important to be open and honest with your other children and let them be involved and know what is happening. If you have other children you will be offered a story book and leaflets appropriate to their age that will help you to explain what has happened.

## **VISITING YOUR CHILD**

You may wish to come back to the hospital to spend time with your child prior to them being transferred to a funeral directors or a specialist hospital for post mortem.

To arrange this please contact the Mortuary team via the hospital switchboard. If your child has died unexpectedly you may need to be accompanied by a representative from the Coroner's office.

You can bring in your child's own clothes and favourite things such as a toy if you would like to.



## **THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH AND REGISTERING THE DEATH**

You must register your child's death within 5 days, usually in the district where the death has occurred. To do this you need the Medical Certificate Cause of Death.

Although it is difficult to consider the decision, it helps to know if your child will be cremated or buried as different forms will be used.

If your child's death has been referred to the Coroner for a post mortem, a Medical Certificate will not be issued at this point and you will be given further information about this. This is the case in all sudden and unexpected deaths. A Family Liaison Officer will be appointed to support you with these issues.

You can register the death only after the Medical Certificate has been issued, you will then need to make an appointment to go and register the death of your child at the Registrar's office.

The Registrar's office needs the following information:

- Medical Certificate Cause of Death
- 'Notice to informants' issued with the Medical Certificate Cause of Death
- Medical card (if available)
- Your child's full name, home address, date and place of birth
- Parents' full names, dates of birth, home address and occupations
- A list of benefits received in your child's name e.g Disability allowance

The Registrar's Office contact details follow:

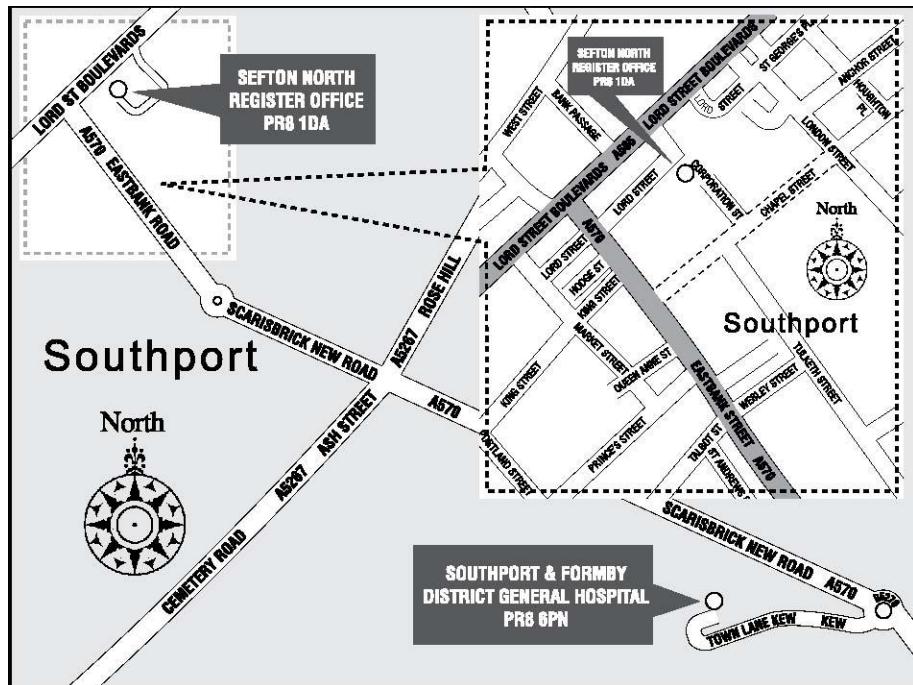
## Southport

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages  
Sefton North Register Office  
Corporation Street  
Southport

Tel: (0151) 934 2011 or (01510) 934 2013

Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday  
09.15 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 16.00  
Tuesday 09.15 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00



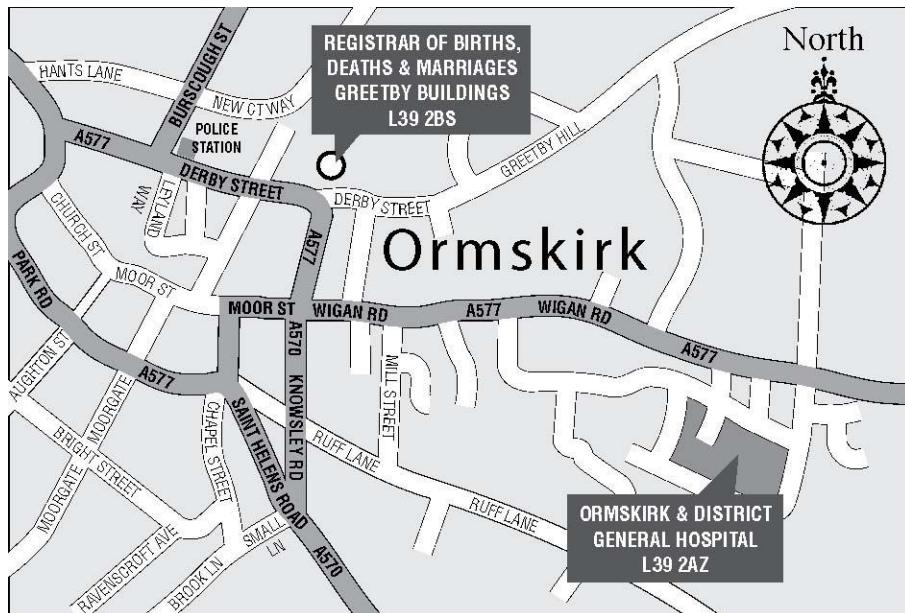
# Ormskirk

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages  
Greetby Building  
Derby Street  
Ormskirk

Tel: 0300 123 6705

Opening hours: (by appointment only):

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 16.30  
(10.30 first Wednesday every month)



## **WHAT IS A POST MORTEM?**

A post mortem is carried out to help to understand why your child has died. It is an examination of the body after death which will be done by a consultant pathologist at Manchester Children's Hospital or Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

In all cases of Sudden and Unexpected deaths a post mortem will be carried out, it is carried out with the same care that would be used if your child had an operation.

The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) regulates post mortem examinations, the removal of tissues from the person who has died and the further storage of such tissues.

You will be kept fully informed of when and where your child is being transferred to for the post mortem and when your child will be transferred back to either the hospital or, if arranged, the funeral directors.

## **FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER**

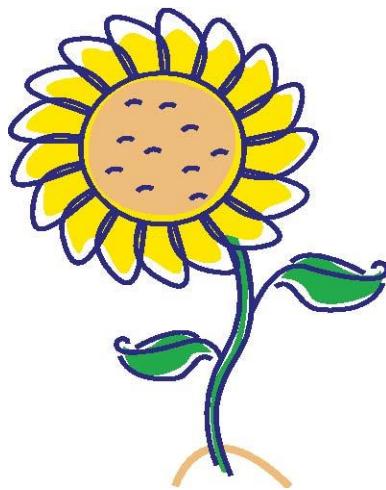
In all cases of Sudden and Unexpected deaths in children and babies a Family Liaison Officer will be assigned to you. The Family Liaison Officer is a trained Police person who will support and guide you and act as a point of contact during this time and will work together with you and the Coroner to try and establish why your child has died.

## THE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

You can contact a funeral director of your choice at any point after your child has died, but many families find it helpful to contact them as soon as possible as they can give you help and guidance on practical and legal requirements.

The funeral director will need the appropriate documentation referred to as the green or yellow form in order to finalise the funeral arrangements. The green form will be issued by the registrar when you register the death, and the yellow form is issued by the Coroner to your funeral director.

If your child requires a post mortem you can still contact a funeral director to make provisional arrangements. The funeral director can liaise with the Coroner's Office on your behalf.



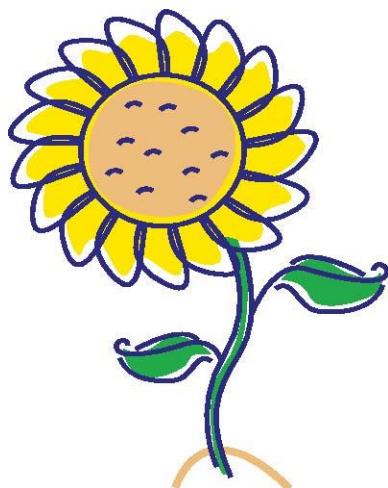
## **ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION**

It may be possible for your child to donate organs and/or tissue after they have died – to help others.

If this is something that, as a family, you would like to consider, please ask the staff member looking after your child, or call:

**0800 432 0559 (pager service)**

It may be possible for your child to donate heart valves, bone, skin and eyes up to 24 hours after death. One donation can help up to 50 people.



## **MEMENTOS**

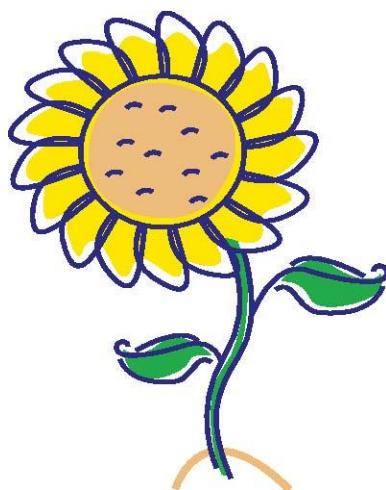
At the time your child has died you will be asked if you would like any mementos. These can include hand prints, foot prints, a lock of hair or a photograph.

If you would like any of these you will be asked to sign a request form. It may be that these mementos cannot be taken until after the post mortem but you will still be asked to complete the request form at the time of your child's death.

## **WHO ELSE NEEDS TO KNOW?**

We will contact your GP and health visitor/school nurse and inform them that your child has died but you will need to inform:

- Your child's school or nursery
- Your child's dentist
- Child benefit office



## **FURTHER CONTACT WITH THE HOSPITAL**

Your child's consultant will contact you following the death of your child and will give you the opportunity to come and meet them. During this time you can talk about what happened when your child died, ask any questions and if your child has had a post mortem they will discuss the results with you. This appointment will be approximately six weeks after your child has died and will be sent to you through the post. If in the meantime you have any questions or wish to speak to the consultant please don't hesitate to contact us, using the details at the front of this booklet.

If you would like to contact the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Team please contact the hospital switchboard on (01704) 547471.

## **REMEMBRANCE BOOK**

Within the hospital chapel we have a book of Remembrance. If you would like to have your child's details added to this book we can arrange for this to happen. You may also wish to decorate this page with a personal message, photographs or stickers. We will send you more information about this at a later date.

*Each year, around the beginning of December, there is a baby and child remembrance service. As part of the short service, there is the opportunity to place a bauble with baby's and child's name on the Christmas tree in the hospital baby garden.*

*The date of the service is publicised on the Trust twitter and Facebook pages, the maternity and neonatal Facebook and twitter pages and in the local press. More details are available from the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Service (01704 704639) or maternity and neonatal ward.*

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Child Death Helpline	0800 282 986
Child Bereavement UK	0800 028 8840
Compassionate Friends	08451 232 304
CRUSE Bereavement Care	0844 477 9400
The Samaritans	08457 909090
Alder Centre (Bereavement Counselling)	0151 252 5391
FSID (Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths)	0207 233 2090
CHICS (Children's Cancer Support)	0151 523 8886
Meningitis Now	0800 801 0385
Road Peace (National Charity for Road Traffic Victims)	0845 450 0355
The Lullaby Trust (Bereavement Support)	0808 802 6868
Winstons Wish (support for grieving children and families)	08088 020021
SANDS (Still birth and Neonatal death)	0808 164 3332

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS IN THIS AREA

Name	Address	Tel No
Ball, J W	95 Bispham Rd Southport	(01704) 228632
Broadbents & Seddons (NAFD, FAS)	33 Liverpool Road Birkdale	(01704) 550055
Brookfied M J (NAFD, FAS, FPA)	73-75 Shakespeare St Southport 254 Liverpool Road Southport	(01704) 532106 (01704) 550011
Cookson Tyrer (NAFD, FAS, FPA)	2 Smithy Walk Burscough	(01704) 897770
Ormskirk Funeralcare (NAFD, FPA)	22C Wigan Road Ormskirk 254 Liverpool road Southport	(01695) 577244 (01704) 550011
Coyne Bros (NAFD, FAS)	3 Old Mill Lane Formby	(01704) 873899
Craven Funeral Directors (FPA)	Craven Lodge Broadgreen Rd Liverpool	(0151) 2283900
Dean Bros Ltd (SAIF, NAFD, FAS)	Deans Court Gores Lane Formby	(01704) 872023
Devonport Funeral Services (NAFD, FAS)	117 Birleywood Skelmersdale	(01695) 731199
Gibbs Funeral Director (SAIF)	Clarence Mews 6A Clarence Road Southport	(01704) 551666
Johnson H & Sons (SAIF)	1A Ralph's Wife's Lane Banks	(01704) 740831

	147 Roe Lane Southport	(01704) 749466
Hardman H & Co (NAFD, FAS)	Elizabeth House 57A Cottage Lane Ormskirk Greenways House 258 Moorfield Lane Scarisbrick Marlborough House Witham Road Skelmersdale	(01695) 581769  (01704) 89219  (01695) 722122/720012
Howards Funeral Directors (NAFD, FAS)	1-5 Roe Lane Southport 82 Station Road Ainsdale	(01704) 776210  (01704) 778297
Hunters of Ormskirk (NAFD, FAS)	128B Burscough Street Ormskirk	(01695) 572997
Hull W H (NAFD, FAS, FPA)	81 Church Road Tarleton	(01772) 812409
MLS Independent Funeral Directors (NAFD)	20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton 22a Liverpool Road North Burscough	(01695) 424888  (01704) 891555
Moisters of Southport (NAFD, FAS, FPA)	25A Sefton Street Southport 8 Marshside Road Churchtown 8 Station Road Ainsdale	(01704) 501501  (01704) 227430  (01704) 575282
Neal Buckley	49 Church Road Tarleton	(01772) 301700

Porter Funeralcare (NAFD, FAS, FPA)	111A Bispham Road, Southport	(01704) 212714
Rushton M (NAFD)	100 Marshside Road, Southport	(01704) 214118
Skelmersdale Funeral Service (NAFD, FAS)	29/31 Sandy Lane Skelmersdale	(01695) 559868
Whalley G C & Daughters	4 Chapel Lane Longton	(01772) 612900



**Please call 01704 704714 if you need  
this leaflet in an alternative format**

**Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust**

Ormskirk & District General Hospital  
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AZ  
Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital  
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN  
Tel: (01704) 547471

**FOR APPOINTMENTS**

Telephone (01695) 656680  
Email [soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net](mailto:soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net)

Please remember to complete the **attached Friends and Family Test**.

Alternatively, you can complete the *Friends and Family Test* on-line by going to: [southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT](http://southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT)

**Thank you**

Owner: Claire Taylor

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