

## Registering a Stillbirth

### What do you need to do to register a stillbirth?

When a child is stillborn, a doctor or midwife will issue a medical certificate of stillbirth. The person who registers the stillbirth must take this certificate to the registrar. Every stillbirth in England and Wales must be registered in the district in which it takes place.

You must contact your local register office to make an appointment. Both offices are open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 4.30pm. Please telephone for an appointment.

Wakefield Register Office  
Town Hall  
Wood Street  
Wakefield  
WF1 2HQ

[wakefieldregistrars@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:wakefieldregistrars@wakefield.gov.uk)

Pontefract Registration Office  
Town Hall  
Pontefract  
WF8 1PG  
Tel: 01977 722670

[pontefractregistrars@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:pontefractregistrars@wakefield.gov.uk)

### Who can register a stillbirth?

#### Parents married to each other

If the parents of the child were married to each other at the time of the stillbirth (or conception), either the mother or the father may register.

#### Parents not married to each other

If the parents were not married to each other at the time of the stillbirth (or conception) information about the father may be entered in the register in the following circumstances:

- If the mother and father go to the register office and sign the register together, or
- Where the father is unable to attend the register office with the mother, the father makes a statutory declaration acknowledging his paternity which the mother must produce to the registrar (please contact us for the relevant form)
- Where the mother is unable to attend the register office with the father the mother makes a statutory declaration acknowledging the fathers paternity which the father must produce to the registrar (please contact us for the relevant form)

If the parents of the child are unable to register the stillbirth please contact the register office for advice.

## What information will I need?

You will be asked to confirm the following information during your appointment:

- Details of when and where the stillbirth occurred
- The child's full name (if you wish to name the child)

### For the mother:

- Forename(s) and surname
- Maiden surname of the mother is, or has been married
- Date and place of birth
- Occupation at the time of the stillbirth or, if not employed at the time, the last occupation
- Usual address
- Date of marriage, if married to the baby's father at the time of the stillbirth.

### For the father (where this information is to be entered in the register):

- Forename(s) and surname
- Date and place of birth
- Occupation at the time of the stillbirth, or if not employed at that time, the last occupation

## What Certificates will be issued?

### **Certificate of registration**

A certificate of registration will be issued, free of charge, to the person who registers the stillbirth.

### **Certificate for burial or cremation**

The registrar will issue a certificate for the burial or cremation of the stillborn child. The certificate is normally passed to the funeral director who is making the arrangements.

A funeral cannot take place until this certificate is given to the burial authority or the crematorium. If there is a delay to the registration, it is possible for a certificate for the burial to be issued before registration provided the stillbirth does not need to be reported to the Coroner. A certificate for cremation cannot be issued before the registration.

## How can I get help and support with bereavement?

You may find it helpful to seek help and support from your GP, community midwife or health visitor.

Support groups can also help if you have had a stillbirth.

The Stillbirth and neonatal death society (SANDS) provides support for anyone affected by the death of a baby. The charity runs a helpline, provides information and support literature and funds research into the causes of stillbirth.

Tel: 020 74365881

[www.uk-sands.org](http://www.uk-sands.org)