

Collecting your baby from the mortuary

This leaflet is for any parents who wish to collect their baby from the hospital mortuary themselves.

Why would this be necessary?

You may wish to take your baby home before either a hospital funeral or a private funeral. Or if your baby was born before 24 completed weeks of pregnancy, you wish to make family arrangements for your baby.

Who can do this?

Either parent or someone else you have designated, who has the correct permission and identification, can collect your baby.

When can we do this?

The hospital mortuary is open Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm excluding Public Holidays. An appointment must be made by ringing the mortuary staff on 0118 322 7743.

What will happen to my baby?

Your baby will be prepared by the Delivery Suite staff and transferred to the hospital mortuary by the porters.

If you wish to collect your baby directly from the Delivery Suite, please speak to the Delivery Suite staff or the bereavement midwives.

What do we need to take?

You will need something suitable in which to carry your baby. We can lend you an appropriate carrier from the Delivery Suite. Please return this when you have finished with it. You can arrange return with the Maternity Bereavement team on 07500 123 912 or by emailing rbft.bereavementmidwives@nhs.net

You will need photographic proof of ID and address, e.g. a driving licence, or, if you are not one of the baby's parents, written proof that you have permission to collect the baby, as well as proof of ID.

Collecting your baby

Please be aware that you will be asked to identify the baby from his or her name tags, which will involve viewing your baby's body. You will also be asked to sign the mortuary ledger to say that you are taking responsibility for your baby after his or her release.

If your baby is over 24 weeks of gestation, then registration at the Register Office is required.

Appointments can now be booked online in Reading at:

- Births <http://www.reading.gov.uk/births>
- Deaths <http://www.reading.gov.uk/deaths>
- Stillbirths <http://www.reading.gov.uk/stillbirths>

If you wish to register out of hours, then this can be done at the Registrar's discretion by ringing them directly on 0118 937 3737.

Further information

- Hospital mortuary - 0118 322 7743
- Bereavement midwife - 07500 123912
- Delivery Suite- 0118 322 7215

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

Bereavement midwives, February 2016

Reviewed: June 2022

Next review due: June 2024