

Further information

Hospital mortuary
0118 322 7743

Bereavement midwife
07500 123912

Delivery Suite
0118 322 7215

This document can be made
available in other languages and
formats upon request.

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Maternity Services, June 2018
Review due: June 2020

**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 and you wish to make family arrangements for the disposal of the body.

Who can do this?

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

When can we do this?

. The hospital mortuary is open Monday to Friday 08.00 to 16.00

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. Babies cannot be released directly from the Delivery Suite.

You will then be asked to attend the mortuary viewing suite where you will be able to collect your baby.

What do we need to take?

You will need something suitable in which to transport your baby. We will lend you an appropriate carrier from the Delivery Suite and you will need to return it there when you have finished with it.

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 the baby

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

If the baby is over 24 weeks of gestation then registration is required.

Appointments can now be booked online at:

Births

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/births>

Deaths

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/deaths>

Still-births

<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 0118 937 3737.