

## LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)  
[www.bromleysafeguarding.org](http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org)

Child Death Overview Administrator  
Tel: 020 8313 4240

If you have any questions or comments about the child death review processes please contact the Child Death Overview Team to arrange for a member of the panel to make contact with you.



## USEFUL NATIONAL RESOURCES

▶ Child Bereavement Trust  
Tel: 01494 568900 or 0800 028 8840 (free from landline)  
[support@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:support@childbereavementuk.org) (confidential support)  
[www.childbereavement.org.uk](http://www.childbereavement.org.uk)

▶ Cruse Bereavement Care  
Tel: 0844 477 9400  
[helpline@cruse.org.uk](mailto:helpline@cruse.org.uk)  
[www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)

▶ Youth Involvement Project (part of Cruse)  
Tel: 0808 808 1677 (freephone)  
[www.rd4u.org.uk](http://www.rd4u.org.uk)

▶ The Lullaby Trust  
0808 802 6868 (free from landline)  
[support@lullabytrust.org.uk](mailto:support@lullabytrust.org.uk)  
[www.lullabytrust.org.uk](http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk)

▶ SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society)  
Tel: 020 7436 5881  
[helpline@uk-sands.org](mailto:helpline@uk-sands.org)  
[www.uk-sands.org](http://www.uk-sands.org)

# WHEN A CHILD DIES

A photograph of a light-colored, plush teddy bear sitting on a wooden floor. The bear is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. The background is a solid blue wall. The text "INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS" is overlaid in white, serif font on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangular area at the bottom of the page.

INFORMATION FOR  
PARENTS AND  
CARERS

# WHEN A CHILD DIES

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

### SUPPORT & ADVICE

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. This needs to be taken to the registrars office:

Registrar for births and deaths  
Civic Centre  
Bromley

### 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. There may need to be an inquest to gather further information if the post mortem reveals an unnatural cause of death.

### CHILD DEATH REVIEW PROCESSES

Since April 2008 Government legislation has required the Local Safeguarding Children Board to review the deaths of every child and young person in their area. This is because it is believed that reviewing all deaths may help services working with children and families in the future.

### UNEXPECTED DEATHS

The sudden death of a child is particularly distressing and confusing. 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 and ensure that you are offered the right support. This group will include those professionals who knew your child such as GP, health visitor or school nurse. The group will be led by the Designated Doctor for Unexpected Deaths and will include the police.

A member of the group will be identified to provide you with advice, support and feedback regarding the child death process.

### CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL

All child deaths will be considered by the panel, usually several months after the death. Professionals who worked with you and your child will be asked to provide information about the death.

- ▶ The purpose of the panel is to identify any emerging patterns and trends regarding local child death
- ▶ Identify any lessons about the patterns
- ▶ Based on the knowledge take action to improve the safety and well being of children in the area
- ▶ Ensure, where possible, further deaths can be avoided

### CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL MEMBERSHIP

The panel is chaired by a consultant in Public Health.

There are senior representatives from local authority children's services, police, coroner and child health.

### REPORTING

An annual report will be submitted to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This will contain key learning and recommendations but no personal case information. This report will be shared with local services as necessary.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

All personal information regarding your child's death will be treated as strictly confidential and not shared outside of the panel meeting.

