

Ideas for Memorials & Funerals

Planning a funeral is exhausting and emotional. It is highly recommended that both parents play a part in the planning. You can request that a funeral director visit you in the hospital to assist you in your planning. You may wish to wait until Mom is better physically to have a memorial service or burial. Contact your local funeral home or chaplain for more ideas on making your service more intimate.

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO RUSH.
YOU HAVE TIME TO PLAN THIS TO BE A SPECIAL MEMORIAL TO YOUR BABY.**

Websites/Books to Assist You

- www.nationalshareoffice.com - request "Bittersweet: Hello/Goodbye" to be emailed.
- www.bornতোosoon.freesevers.com - information on services and on keepsakes
- **Planning a Precious Goodbye**- Sherokee Ilse & Susan E. Martinez

Logistics

Cremation

The hospital arranges for your child to be cremated. Some hospitals allow for parents to retrieve the ashes, check with the chaplain on this. If you are able to retrieve your child's ashes, you can choose a special container to keep the ashes in. This option is usually free.

You arrange for a funeral home to get the baby from the hospital and they will cremate the baby and you can pick up the remains from the funeral home. You are also able to pick out an urn. You may also want to pick a plot and have the urn buried. If so, consider a place close by in case you want to visit, or with other relatives' graves so you know your baby is not alone. There is cost involved. Cremation services run usually less than \$100 and urns begin around \$30 and go up from there. You may also consider buying a special box and having it inscribed. You can purchase them affordably. Check out www.thingsremembered.com or www.thecomfortcompany.com. If you are adamant on arranging the cremation yourself but do not have money, check with your funeral director about a donation or a payment plan. Most are good about working with the family.

Burial

You arrange for a funeral home work with you on this. You will meet with a director who will help you decide on a casket and help suggest cemeteries. Caskets for children begin around \$200 and usually include a visitation day where a viewing or service can be performed. Many cemeteries have a special baby land area and do not charge for interment. You will be able to bring special trinkets, windmills and things to leave at the graveside. If you choose to have your child buried in a regular part of the cemetery, you will pay for a regular plot and there may be restrictions on what can be left at the graveside. If you are adamant on a burial but do not have money, check with your funeral director about a donation or a payment plan. Most are good about working with the family.

You can have a viewing even if you decide to have your child cremated. Check with your funeral director about this option. You may wish want to give your family and friends the option of meeting your sweet baby and saying goodbye.

Songs

Here are some suggestions but it is also very appropriate to play a special lullaby, songs parents sang to baby or hymns.

- *The Dance*- Garth Brooks
- *With Hope*- Steven Curtis Chapman
- *Even the Darkness is Light to Him*- Michael Card
- *One More Day with You*-Diamond Rio
- *Jesus Loves Me*
- *Jesus Love the Little Children*
- *Tears in Heaven*- Eric Clapton
- *Glory Baby*- Watermark
- *Precious Child*- Karen Taylor-Good (www.compassionatefriends.org)
- *To Where You Are*- Josh Groban
- *Visitor From Heaven*- Twila Paris
- *Hear You Me*- Jimmy Eat World
- *I Will*- The Beatles
- *Masterpiece*- Sandy Patti
- *Baby Mine*- Bette Midler
- *Jesus ' Rocking Chair*- check with your Christian bookstore
- *Go Rest High*- Vince Gill
- *Goodnight, My Angel*- Billy Joel
- *Goodbye My Friend*- Linda Ronstadt
- *Hello, Goodbye*- Michael W. Smith
- *Without You*- Dixie Chicks
- *Angels in Waiting*- Tammy Cochran
- *Fly*- Celine Dion

Ideas for Service

- Set white rosebuds at front of chapel/meeting place- one for each baby.
- Make a picture collage for front of chapel/meeting place.
- Let balloons, butterflies or doves go at the end of the service.
- Write letters to put in casket.
- Add special mementos from each family member to casket.
- If cremation, have urn inscribed with baby's name and dates.
- Ask family members to read poems.