Policy for the Cremation of Stillborn, Miscarriage, Non-viable Foetus and Neonatal Deaths

Kettering Borough Council Crematorium conforms to guidance set out by the Joint Committee on Infant Cremation (2015) endorsed by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) in relation to the cremation of Stillborn, miscarried or non-viable foetuses wherever possible.

The Council endeavours at all times to maximise the return of remains from all cremations. This is not always possible when cremating stillborn, miscarried or non-viable foetuses. This must be explained to parents before the cremation takes place, if this is not explained fully then parents may have been denied the choice of earth burial.

Individual cremation of late miscarriage, still birth, neonatal death and Non-viable foetus’s
Parents opting for an individual cremation after a late miscarriage, still birth or neonatal death are offered the same options in regards to cremated remains as adult cremations. Parents opting for an individual cremation must complete the standard Funeral Service Particulars form and select from the four options offered for cremated remains. These are:

- Scattering within the gardens of remembrance (either with the applicant attending or not).
- Releasing the remains to the applicant for cremation
- Temporary storage of the remains at the crematorium for a maximum of three months.

Communal/Shared Cremation
The Council has a standing agreement with Kettering General Hospital (KGH) relating to communal/shared cremations of early miscarriage and non-viable foetuses pre 12 week gestation.

In order to maximise dignity, the return of remains and safety of staff all group cremations are loaded into the cremator using a wooden charging board. Remains recovered from a communal/shared cremation are not individually identifiable. All remains collected from a communal/shared cremation are scattered on Lawn C, on the grassed area directly in front of the garden surrounding the planter memorial known as the baby section. This is recorded on the emission monitoring sheet and cremation register as per adult cremations.

Practises for increasing the likelihood of remains from the cremation of all miscarriage, still birth, neonatal death or Non-viable foetus’s
The Council attempts to maximise remains by the following practices:-

- If possible holding the cremations of miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths early in the day so that cremator temperatures are at their lowest.
- Cremations are set to the Short Cycle system designed for small coffins.
• The coffin is placed on a wooden charging board so that the coffin is charged into the prime area within the cremator in a dignified manner whilst maintaining staff safety.

Record Keeping
Record keeping for all miscarriage, still birth or neonatal deaths is as standard for adult cremations.

Training
Kettering Borough Council Crematorium Technicians undertake the ICCM Baby and Infant Cremation Certificate of Proficiency.

If you have any queries in relation to this policy please do not hesitate to contact Bereavement Services on 01536 525722.

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