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Bereavement Services Offices

*Fife Council, Kirkcaldy Crematorium, Dunnikier Way, Kirkcaldy,
KY1 3PL*

County Buildings, St Catherine Street, Cupar, KY15 4TA

*Burial Administration, Leisure and Communities Department
Level 2, Central Library, The Wellgate, Dundee, DD1 1DB*

*Bereavement Services Division Mortonhall Crematorium,
Howdenhall Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TX*



Baby Tracing Information



Introduction

When setting up the baby memorial garden in Western Cemetery, St Andrews in 2007, we became aware of how little information women received when their baby was stillborn or died soon after birth, as recently as the 1970's. It was very common for the mother not to be told where her baby had been laid to rest, often resulting in the belief that they were not given a proper burial or cremation. In many cases, the bereaved mum was told to forget about their loss and have another baby. Therefore, it is not surprising that a number of women who have come to us recently were even unsure of when their baby was born, particularly if they had been ill at the time of birth. With this in mind we have put together some information to help families find out as much as possible.

Date of Birth

If you wish to find out the date of birth for your baby, New Register House in Edinburgh may be able to help. If you are the parent of the baby, you should write to them at

New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

You will need to provide them with the following information

Date (approximate) and place of baby's birth

Mother's address at time of baby's birth

Full name of both parents, including mother's maiden name

If the baby's parents are no longer alive, a sibling may obtain this information in the same way, including their own name and date/place of birth and their parents' date of marriage.

For a small fee, an extract from the stillbirth register may be obtained, or copies of birth and death certificates if the baby was born alive.

Committal of Remains

When trying to trace where your baby was laid to rest, you should contact Bereavement Services closest to where your baby was born. A baby born in Dunfermline Maternity Hospital was most likely to be buried in Dunfermline Cemetery. For those born at Forth Park, they may have been buried at Hayfield Cemetery. If no record can be found, there is a possibility that your baby may have been cremated in Kirkcaldy or Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh. For babies born at Craigtoun Hospital, the babies were usually buried in Western Cemetery, St Andrews.

If your baby died after birth, and was transferred to another hospital because they were ill, they are likely to have been laid to rest in the cemetery closest to that hospital.

When contacting local offices, please give as much information as possible, including

Date and place of baby's birth

Mother's address at time of baby's birth

Full name of both parents, including mother's maiden name

It may not be possible to trace where your baby was laid to rest, and you must bear this in mind when deciding whether to try to find out or not.

If you do find out where your baby is, please be aware that if it is in Common Ground within a cemetery, no individual markers may be placed. We do have Memorial Gardens in Dunfermline Cemetery, Dunfermline Crematorium, Kirkcaldy Crematorium, Hayfield Cemetery and Western Cemetery. Inscriptions can be ordered for these stones as a memorial to your loved one, and flowers may be placed in designated areas. We do discourage the leaving of soft toys as these do not stand up well to the weather. If toys are left, please be aware that they will be removed periodically from the Gardens and held within the local office for collection.

For contact information, please see back page.