



Have You Considered...?

*Planning Your Child's
Service*

GENERAL THOUGHTS

- Take your time
- Plan a service that meets YOUR needs
- Take an active part as a couple in the planning of the service
- Meet your needs without draining you financially
- If you need financial help, the funeral director should be able to direct you to the proper resources
- Delay the service until the mother and father can be present
- Ask about necessary permits to transport the child yourself
- You can change your mind about seeing your child
- A simple private service, you can have a more public one later

GENTLE SUGGESTIONS

- Request a lock of hair
- Request a hand print or foot print
- If an autopsy has been done, you may wish to use a bonnet or hat
- Bury the child with family pictures or a favorite toy
- Have photos taken of the child
- Build the casket yourself
- Let family members select things to place in the casket
- Hold and rock your child, if possible
- Place half of a friendship necklace on the child and keep the other half
- Write a note or letter to your child and place it in the casket
- In lieu of flowers: donations to an organization specific to the reason the child died
- Ask for changes if you are not happy with your child's appearance

PLANNING THE SERVICE

- If you do not have a clergy, have a family member or friend direct the service
- You may want to hold your child during the service
- Light a special candle that can be re-lit at family functions
- Have literature or donation envelopes displayed (relevant to the cause of death)
- How will you have your child called (name, nickname) during the service
- Have photos of your child displayed
- Use Biblical passages, poetry or music appropriate to the child's age
- Have somebody available to go out with your other children during the service if they feel the need to leave

- Save a flower from the service for the child's baby book
- Design the memorial folder yourself
- Video or audio tape the service
- Services do not have to be at a funeral home
- Transport the casket in your own vehicle
- Don't worry if you are running late to the service; they will wait for you

GRAVESITE

- Bury the child with another deceased family member
- Watch as the gravesite is closed
- Ask if you can participate in the closing of the gravesite
- You do not have to buy a grave maker right away
- Design the headstone yourself
- Have a small ceremony to mark the placing of the marker
- Have someone take a photo after the stone has been set

IN THE DAYS AND MONTHS THAT FOLLOW

- Seek out a support group
- Use the memorial/service card to announce your child's death
- There is no hurry to decide what to do with your child's belongings
- Donate your child's toys
- Ask for a copy of the autopsy report
- Put together a memory box for pictures, cards, etc.
- Many religions have anniversary services or masses

ADDITIONAL PLANNING RESOURCES

[Comfort Us Lord, Our Baby Died](#) – Norman Hagley, D. Min. A book of prayers. \$3.10

[Little Footprints](#) – Dorothy Ferguson. A special memory book for infants who are miscarried or stillborn. \$5.75

[Making Loving Memories](#) – Mary Lou Eddy and Linda Raydo. A gentle guide of suggestions. \$2.00

[Planning a Precious Good-bye](#) – Pregnancy and Infant Loss Center. Contains ideas for songs, scriptures, poems. \$3.50

For more information please call the:
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