

CHU Sainte-Justine

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www.chusj.org



Planning your child's funeral arrangements

This pamphlet is intended to help guide families whom have lost a child less than one year of age.

For more information

If you wish to receive more information regarding all of the important decisions that must be made, do not hesitate to call the admission's office:

Monday to Friday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at
514 345-4984

It will be our pleasure to clarify any information or redirect you to the right person who can help you.

We are aware that the decisions that you are about to make are quite difficult. We are very sensitive to the grief that you are experiencing and we truly hope that this document will guide you into making the decisions that are right for you and your family.

Your healthcare team will be present for you every step of the way.

The admissions office, palliative care team of the CHU Ste-Justine, spiritual care team as well as the registered nurse for the evaluation of the care on perinatal grief.

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Comité des documents destinés à la clientèle

Printed

Imprimerie du CHU Sainte-Justine

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F-4252-A GRM : 30007154 (REV.02-2018)



We would like to offer you our deepest condolences during these arduous times. You now have the difficult and important task of planning your child's funeral arrangement.

This document will help you explore the two different options that are available to you as well as their procedures. We kindly suggest that you discuss these possibilities with your family members or close friends.

Funeral arrangements made by CHU Ste-Justine

Thanks to the partnership between CHU Ste-Justine and the Mount Royal Funeral Complex, it is possible for you to authorize the hospital to care for your child's body. This option is free of charge. Should this option be your preference, you must check off one of the three boxes on the *Disposal of a body of a child less than one year of age by the CHU Ste-Justine* form. These are the three options that are offered to you:

- ▶ You may decide to incinerate¹ your child's body, no matter the weight;
 - Have the ashes buried (**option A**) in the lot belonging to the CHU Ste-Justine at the Mount Royal cemetery
 - Recover the ashes (**option B**). The Mount Royal Funeral Complex will communicate with you by telephone when it will be possible to retrieve the ashes.
 - If your child weighs less than 500g, you also have (**option C**) to bury the body² in the CHU Ste-Justine lot.

The CHU Ste-Justine lot is located at the **Mount Royal cemetery** at the following address: **1297 chemin de la Forêt, Outremont, H2V 2P9**.

On the lot, you will find a tomb stone which carries the inscription *For the love of children/Pour l'amour des enfants*. The location is very calm and serene and is surrounded by many trees. You may visit at any time within the cemetery's visiting hours.

The location

Once you pass the main entrance, turn right. Follow the green road and then the white road. Turn right again. The lot will be on your right.

Funeral arrangements made by the family

If you decide to plan the funeral yourself, you may select your own funeral home. The cost of the services and procession will be entirely at your own expense. Please note that many funeral homes cover the costs of arrangements for the passing of a



child less than one year of age. As such, we kindly suggest you speak to the director of the funeral parlour you have chosen to see if this is a possibility.

If this option is the one you are most comfortable with, please sign the second section of the form.

List of deadlines that must be respected

Once your decision has been made, it must be submitted by completing the form entitled: *Arrangements for the disposition of the body for deceased children under the age of one year old by the CHU Ste-Justine*. Below, you will find a step-by-step guide on how and where to submit the form.

▶ During your hospital stay or upon your departure from the ward

- Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm; you may hand in the form to your nurse or to the secretary at the admissions office on the first floor, bloc 11. You must take a number at the terminal by selecting the option 'Grief/Deuil' and have a seat in the waiting area.
- Evenings and weekends; the form can be given to your nurse or the secretary at the Mother-Child admissions office on the fourth floor of the bloc 11.

▶ Once you have returned home

- The form can be sent to us by mail or by fax;
 - › **Mail:** CHU Sainte-Justine, Admissions Office, 1st Floor Bloc 11, 3175 Chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine, Montreal, Quebec, H3T-1C5
 - › **Fax:** 514-345-4815

If your decision has not been made within **10 days** of the passing of your child, the CHU Sainte-Justine will take responsibility in disposing of the body. The choice will be final.

1, 2. The burial of the bodies in the CHU Ste-Justine lot occur during the month of September every year. The exact date is not communicated to the public, because the funeral complex does not allow the presence of family members to witness the event. For more information, you may call the **Mont Royal funeral complex at 514-279-6540**.