

Share Companion Position Description & Qualifications



Share Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support is a non-profit organization that serves those whose lives are touched by the tragic death of a baby through pregnancy loss, stillbirth or in the first few months of life. The loss of a baby is one of life's most painful struggles and Share provides caring support for bereaved families and guides them to a place of healing.

All volunteers of Share must be committed to fulfilling the agency's mission as well as represent Share in a professional manner at Share events and in the general public.

Qualifications:

The Companion has experienced the loss of a baby and shown strength and healing as they have grieved and incorporated their baby into their life. A recommendation for this program has been given from a Share Bereavement Coordinator or a Share staff member. The Share Companion carries a passion for the mission of Share and is ready to volunteer their time. Upon the start of the companion program, bereavement training from the National Share office is required.

Position Description and Responsibilities:

The Companions' primary responsibility is to serve as a peer support person for a newly bereaved family. The Companion will determine which facility they are available to serve and work alongside that facilities program coordinator. The following are requirements of the Companion:

- Perinatal Bereavement training completed through the Share National office.
- Hospital Volunteer training required for each hospital/facility chosen to serve. Volunteer badge obtained from hospital, to be worn with every hospital visit if applicable per facility policy.
- Shadow Companion Coordinator or Chapter Coordinator for 1-2 hospital visits prior to being called out individually.
- Provide emotional support to the family during their loss.

- Provide help and resources for siblings, grandparents.
- Assist with Memory Making for the baby. Taking photos, hand or foot prints, name cards, and allowing the family to be involved as much as possible.
- Respect family's decision and support them in the best way possible.
- Assist with memorial planning/disposition.
- Communicate with the hospital staff prior to meeting the family and again before leaving from a visit.
- Be open minded to all cultural and religious beliefs.
- Provide supportive after care, including phone calls, cards, and or email.
- Attend the baby's memorial service if possible.
- Attend a support group meeting with the family.
- Maintain open communication with the Companion Coordinator.
- Track the volunteer hours served, both at the hospital and for time spent doing follow up care.
- Attend required meetings and complete all education opportunities per program coordinator's guidelines.
- Keep the families information confidential at all times, following all HIPPA and facility privacy guidelines.

Share Companions are responsible to be available for hospitals visits. All calls come from the coordinator and can then be monitored for participation. If a leave from the program is needed we ask for assistance with phone support, support groups, online support, or assistance with memorial events. The companion is an excellent advocate to the mission of Share and can serve as a resource to the community on the program in which they serve.