



## Rights of Parents Whose Baby Dies Very Early in Pregnancy

- To be with each other during any tests, procedures or hospitalization as much as possible.
- To be cared for by an empathic staff who will respect their feelings, beliefs and individual requests.
- To have information presented in terminology understandable to parents regarding their baby's status and or cause of death (if known), including pathology reports and medical records.
- To be told all options and to be given the choice (when medically possible) on how to proceed when their baby has died, such as D&C, natural delivery or delivery induced by medications.
- To be able to see and hold their baby and take photographs if possible.
- To be given the option to name their baby if they choose to, whether or not the gender is known.
- To observe cultural and religious practices the parents feel are appropriate to the situation.
- To be informed of the grieving process and to be given referrals and resources that will help them through their grief.
- To be offered as many mementos as possible, for example, ultrasound photos, memory box, certificate of life.
- To be given information on the facility's disposition policy and offered choices whenever possible.
- To be given options regarding farewell rituals such as a hospital memorial service, a balloon release, or a private burial at home.
- To receive follow-up appointments for medical tests and genetic counseling or to review lab test results.
- These rights should be granted to parents no matter how early in the pregnancy their loss occurred.

Adapted by Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support from "Miscarriage Bereavement Protocols" by Perry-Lynn Moffit, co-author of *A Silent Sorrow*. Endorsed by Share and perinatal loss support groups and leaders nationally.