



# Rushcliffe Oaks

Celebrating life and honouring every memory

## Baby & Infant Cremation Policy





Rushcliffe  
Oaks

# Baby & Infant Cremation Policy

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## **1. Purpose of the policy**

Rushcliffe Borough Council wishes it to be known that it considers the interests of the bereaved family, and the baby or infant left in our care to be the central focus of our attention.

Rushcliffe Oaks is committed to providing sensitive care with the utmost respect to all those entrusted to us. Our policies and processes for infant cremation are aligned to the latest guidance on infant cremation, as per the recommendations of Lord Bonyon's Infant Cremation Commission (June 2014 Scotland).

In line with this guidance our ashes policy is set out below and is supported by the following organisations:

- Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA)
- Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)
- Cremation Society of Great Britain (CSGB)
- The Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries (APCC)

## **2. Definition of ashes**

We consider cremated remains and ashes to be one and the same thing. This is in line with Lord Bonyon's recommendations. We agree that ashes are what remain in the cremator after the cremation process is complete, and any metal has been removed. Should a case arise where there are no ashes remaining at the end of the cremation process, a member of the team would contact the applicant to advise them of this.

## **3. Maximising the recovery of ashes during cremation**

Our approach to the cremation of babies and infants is designed to maximise the recovery of ashes. All members of the team have been trained under the ICCM CTTS scheme, which includes the cremation of babies and infants.

The process carried out includes the use of a baby tray to retain the ashes where practical and maintaining the operational conditions to reduce the loss of ashes during cremation.

Best practice will be followed at all times using specialist computer programmes, metal trays and equipment. This is to protect the ashes and maximises their recovery.

## **4. Disposal of ashes**

In the case of a private cremation, we will only act upon written instruction. This will come from either the parent acting as the Applicant for the cremation or another person nominated in writing by the parent.

Ashes can be held for a period of up to 3 months. A charge is made after the 3 months, and the family will be notified in writing giving notice of the upcoming charge. If written instructions for disposal are not received within a six-month period, we are permitted to disperse the ashes within the grounds.

Should this situation arise, we will write to the applicant at the 3-, 4- and 5-month mark. If no contact is made a letter will then be sent advising of the date the scattering will take place at month 6.

Once the scattering has taken place a certificate with the scattering location will be sent to the applicant.

## 5. Disposal of metals

We take part in the ICCM's Recycling of Metals scheme.

The purpose of this scheme is to protect our environment and conserve resources. We follow existing legislation and process metals in a sensitive manner. We donate to bereavement charities as per the scheme, locally where possible.

We ask the Applicant to sign their consent as part of our instruction form to consent to the recycling of metals and there is the option to have the metals returned instead, should they so wish.

## 6. Record keeping

All cremations of babies and infants will be registered at the crematorium. We will keep all information given in forms and certificates indefinitely. This may be in electronic form.

If the cremated remains are scattered within the grounds of the crematorium, the final resting place will be recorded.

We will keep a record of the person authorised by the Applicant to collect the ashes and a signed collection slip with date of collection and by whom.

## 7. Further information

If you have any further questions about any part of this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

## 8. Amendments

Please be aware that Rushcliffe Oaks reserves the right to amend this policy whenever it deems necessary. The most up to date version of the policy will always be the digital version available on our website at [www.rushcliffeoaks.co.uk](http://www.rushcliffeoaks.co.uk).





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