



Crematorium & Woodland Burial Site

Policy Statement Relating to the Cremation of Babies and Infants

Roucan Loch Crematorium Company 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. This will be reflected in all of our administrative and operational practices and procedures.

Definition of 'ashes'

Whilst our employees might use the terms 'ashes' and 'cremated remains' we deem these to be one and the same and defined as *'all that is left in the cremator at the end of the cremation process and following the removal of any metal'*.

There might be a small number of cases where there are no ashes remaining at the end of the cremation process. If this is the case our staff will contact the Funeral Director of the Applicant for Cremation and advise them of this.

Maximising the recovery of ashes during cremation

We have developed an approach to the cremation of babies and infants that is designed to maximise the recovery of ashes. This includes the use of a cremation tray designed to retain ashes where practicable, and the maintenance of operational conditions that will minimise the loss of any ashes during the process of cremation.

Our staff will be vigilant during the cremation process and adjust operational conditions when necessary in order to protect the ashes of babies and infants and maximise their recovery.

In any rare instance of non-recovery of ashes, we will notify the Inspector of Crematoria within 48 hours and conduct a review of the cremation process to understand why this is the case. The results of this review will be documented and will be available to next of kin and to the Inspector of Crematoria.

We will adhere to our identification procedure that guarantees that the ashes resulting from individual cremations returned to parents are those of their babies.

Shared Cremations

Where a shared cremation has been chosen by parents, and hence ashes are not individually identifiable, we will take the same care throughout the cremation process and will inter the ashes in our specially created area called The Resting Place which is situated in the Forest of Remembrance at Roucan Loch Crematorium. This will be recorded for future reference.

Disposal of Ashes

In relation to the disposal of ashes in the case of a private cremation, Roucan Loch Crematorium Company will only act upon the written instruction of the parent who is acting as the Applicant for Cremation or other person nominated in writing by the parent. The “Cremated Remains Instruction Form for Children and Babies”, which includes the terms and conditions for interment in the Children’s Garden at Roucan Loch must have been read, completed and signed by the applicant.

In the case of shared cremations we will only act on the written instruction of the designated person at the relevant hospital, who is acting as the Applicant.

Ashes will be held at the crematorium for up to 6 weeks to await collection by representatives or instructions as to their disposal.

Where no further instructions have been received within the six week period, a further fourteen days’ notice will be given in writing to the Applicant, following which the ashes will be interred within the grounds of the crematorium should no further instructions have been received.

Record-Keeping

All cremations of babies and infants will be registered at the crematorium, with all information as contained in forms and certificates being retained indefinitely.

If ashes are interred within the grounds of the crematorium the final resting place will be registered. Where ashes are to be collected, the details of any person authorised by the applicant to remove/collect the ashes will be registered.

The policy of Roucan Loch Crematorium Company is designed to provide an audit trail from the receipt of initial funeral instructions to the final disposal of ashes, either by collection from the crematorium by the Funeral Director, interment within the confines of the Children’s Garden or in the case of shared cremations, interment within The Resting Place.

Questions or Queries

If you have any questions or queries about the cremation of your baby, you can speak to Patricia McKenzie, Office Manager and Registrar, Roucan Loch Crematorium, Three Crowns Court, Dumfries, DG11HU, Tel: 01387 266749

Ruth Jardine, Crematorium Manager

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