

## Appendix 12 – Taking your baby home-Information for parents and consent form for removing the baby from Salisbury Hospital.

### Taking Your Baby Home.

Some parents may wish to take their baby away from the hospital, either to spend some time at home or to arrange their own funeral.

If a post mortem has been requested, taking the baby away from the hospital will need to be delayed until after the post mortem, as the post mortem needs to be carried out as soon after death as possible.

It is important that the baby is taken in an appropriate container and kept in the right environment, in a cold well ventilated room. The involvement of a local funeral director is advisable.

If parents wish to take their baby away from the hospital, the attached form should be completed. Parents then acknowledge responsibility for their baby. The local police should be informed as this will avoid any misunderstandings on the journey home.

If the parents wish to arrange a burial on private land, they may, provided they carry out the following;

The owner of the land gives permission, for example in the case of a rented property.

There is no interference with any rights that other people may have over the land. If the property is mortgaged, the mortgage company need to be informed before the burial takes place as it may affect the resale of the property. If the property is in a conservation area, the appropriate authority will need to be consulted.

That no danger is caused to others, for example, through pollution of groundwater, surface water or water courses, or by body fluids leaking in to, or on to adjoining land.

The body is buried at an appropriate depth.

Parents need to think very carefully about burying their baby in their garden as they may move house, or the land could possibly be used for new purposes. They should consult their local councils Environmental Health Department and the Environment Agency for advice about the suitability of the site and depth of the grave. There is no legal requirement to register home burials, however, the burial should be noted and kept with the deeds of the property. Perhaps the use of an appropriate flower or plant pot could be used which could then be moved with the parents, if the parents leave the property.

In the case of a neonatal death, parents who bury their baby themselves, must notify the registrar of births and deaths of the date and place of burial within 96 hours. This is not required in the case of a stillborn baby or other pregnancy loss.

Written in accordance with; Pregnancy Loss and the Death of a Baby: Guidelines for Professionals 3rd Edition.

