

The loss of a child is an unbearable situation that no parent ever imagines they will have to face. We recognise that dealing with financial practicalities while coping with the emotions surrounding loss are difficult in any circumstance.

In Wales, local authorities do not charge any fees related to burial and cremation for children under the age of 18. In addition, families in Wales that have registered the loss of a child under the age of 18 are entitled to receive £500 as a contribution towards the funeral and other related costs.

It will be up to each family to decide how they can best spend the money. The type of costs are not restricted but could include: a coffin, shroud, casket; or other covering; a container for storing ashes; meeting the costs charged by a funeral provider (including funeral director fees); funeral vehicles; floral tributes; death notifications; removal of medical devices; fees for medical certificates and death registration certificates; memorials, plaques; and masonry (headstones). The payment will be made to the person registering the loss unless an alternative name is provided.

The local authority Registrar office will discuss this with families when registering the loss and can provide further information.

You may also be entitled to apply for the Department for Work and Pension's funeral expenses payment (<https://www.gov.uk/funeral-payments/how-to-claim>) if you are in receipt of certain benefits or tax credits.

Where to find emotional support

Bereavement and the way we respond to it is a very personal matter. It is important to recognise that you may need help and support. There are a number of organisations which offer support for families when a baby or child of any age dies.

Child Bereavement UK – <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/> (0800 028 8840)

Winstons Wish – <https://www.winstonswish.org/> (08088 020 021)

2 wish upon a star – <https://www.2wishuponastar.org/> (01443 853125)

Cruse Bereavement Care – <https://www.cruse.org.uk/> (0808 808 1677)

Bereavement Advice Centre – <https://www.bereavementadvice.org/> (0800 634 9494)

Good Grief Trust – <https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/>

Samaritans – <https://www.samaritans.org/samaritans-cymru/> (116 123)

Sands – <https://www.sands.org.uk/> (0808 164 3332)

Tommy's – <https://www.tommys.org/about-us> (020 7398 3400)

Sandy Bear Children's Bereavement Charity – <https://www.sandybear.co.uk/>
(01437 700272)

Bliss – <https://www.bliss.org.uk/parents/support>