

Bereavement – specialist agencies and charities

AvMA recognises that the loss of a loved one is a particularly distressing time for families, not only are you having to come to terms with your grief, but you may also have concerns or questions about the healthcare provided to your loved one before or at the time of their death.

AvMA has produced a number of self help leaflets to help you access the various options that may help you find answers to your questions, whether that is through the hospital complaints process or finding a solicitor to bring litigation. Please see our website for more details: www.avma.org.uk/guides

This leaflet has been produced as we recognise that it is common for bereaved people to feel a lot of different emotions at this difficult time. You may feel lost, alone, anxious and/or worried. AvMA specialises in providing advice and information about the various rights, remedies and procedures for redress, we are not specialists in providing bereavement support, neither are we in a position to make formal referrals to professionals specialising in bereavement, however we do recognise that other agencies exist which may be able to provide the emotional support you need. We hope you find at least one of the following websites useful.

For a full range of support and bereavement services please visit: www.careforthefamily.org.uk/family-life/bereavement-support/supporting-bereaved-people/further-help

Loss of a child:

- **Sands** is a charity which specialises in offering support in circumstances where families have experienced loss when a baby dies during pregnancy or after birth: www.sands.org.uk/support-you/how-we-offer-support/helpline
- **The Rainbow Trust** is an organisation that specialises in supporting families who have a child with a life limiting and/or serious condition: rainbowtrust.org.uk/contact-us
- **Child Bereavement UK** provides support to families and professionals when a child dies or when a child is bereaved of someone important in their lives: www.childbereavementuk.org
- **Child Death Helpline** offers a telephone helpline for anyone affected by the death of a child, from pre-birth to the death of an adult child, however long ago, and whatever the circumstances: childdeathhelpline.org.uk
- **The Compassionate Friends** is an organisation of bereaved parents and their families offering understanding, support, and encouragement to others after the death of a child or children: www.tcf.org.uk
- **Petals** is a baby loss counselling charity providing free, specialist counselling to individuals and couples after pregnancy and baby loss: petalscharity.org

Adult and child:

- **Cruse Bereavement** is the largest bereavement support organisation for both adults and children in the UK: www.cruse.org.uk
However, If you live in Scotland and would like to find out more about this service then you may find it helpful to look at their website: www.crusescotland.org.uk
- **At a Loss** is committed to ensuring that everyone in the UK who has suffered a significant loss can locate support: www.ataloss.org
- **Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide**, provide help and support to those bereaved by the suicide of a relative or close friend: uksobs.org
- **Drugfam**, supports families affected by a loved one's use of drugs or alcohol, working with individual family members and carers rather than the user: www.drugfam.co.uk



The charity for patient safety and justice

AvMA is the charity for patient safety and justice. We provide specialist advice and support to people when things go wrong in healthcare and campaign to improve patient safety and justice.

For advice and information visit www.avma.org.uk

Or call our helpline
10am-3.30pm Monday-Friday
(03 calls cost no more than calls to geographic numbers (01 or 02) and must be included in inclusive minutes or there can be a cost per minute)

0345 123 2352



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