

November 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Infant Cremation Commission Report

I write in connection with the above report of the Infant Cremation Commission published earlier this year, and in particular the recommendations made in the report. Whilst the above report relate to issues that became apparent in Scotland the Institute considers that all UK crematoria should be aware in order to provide a safe and secure service to bereaved parents that is without criticism or complaint.

The Institute has accepted and is committed to act on all of the recommendations relating to the management and operational issues highlighted in the report and have consequently amended the following policy and guidance documents and training initiatives:

Crematorium Technician's Training Scheme (CTTS)

CTTS is the only accredited qualification for cremator technicians, being accredited to BTEC standard via Edexcel. A specific, compulsory unit relating to baby and infant cremations has been added to both the Intermediate and Advanced qualifications.

ICCM Diploma

The Diploma is the only available management qualification for crematorium managers and is accredited to full HNC standard by Edexcel. A compulsory unit covering baby and infant cremations has been drafted and is currently with the accreditation body for approval, following which it will be released.

Sensitive Disposal of Fetal Remains

Since its inception in 1985 this guidance document has been reviewed regularly in order to keep pace with changing attitudes of bereaved parents. Since 2010 we have worked with The Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity (Sands) on regular review.

Charter for The Bereaved – Baby & Infant Funerals section

This section of the Charter was initially formulated in conjunction with Sands and we have again combined to produce the latest review.

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Charter Assessment Process

Those authorities in membership of the Charter for the Bereaved are required to undergo annual self-assessment in order to retain their award banding or move to a higher banding. A new section has recently been introduced in respect of baby and infant cremations with member authorities being required to work toward the introduction of the systems, procedures and processes that are compliant with the Commission recommendations.

A number of validations are conducted annually with those authorities receiving a visit being chosen at random.

Guidance Notes

Guidance notes have been issued in respect of the recovery of ashes and the definition of 'ashes'. Further will be added to the website and circulated in the future.

Full information on all Institute initiatives is available from our website www.iccm-uk.com/iccm with all of the above contained in a dedicated area of the home page. No login is needed as all information and documents are publicly available.

Should you require further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Morris, FICCM(Dip), FSBP,
Chief Executive