
Interchurch Families

ORGANISATIONS

Cruse Bereavement Care

Founded in 1959 to support widows (especially young widows), the service has since 1986 been extended to all bereaved people. Cruse provides a nationwide service of bereavement counselling, practical advice and social support groups, with almost 200 branches throughout Britain. A journal, *Bereavement Care*, is published three times a year and is addressed to those who help the bereaved. *Cruse News* appears four times a year; it is meant for bereaved people rather than their helpers. There is a useful list of publications available by mail order, including packs of selected articles from *Bereavement Care* (for example, there is a pack on Funerals).

Headquarters: 126 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1UR; tel. 020 8939 9530.

Helpline: 0870 167 1677, Monday-Friday, 9.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m.

National Association of Widows

The National Association of Widows was founded in 1971 and currently has 46 branches through the UK. There is a Penclub with over 600 members living in different parts of the country, a Young Widows Contact List and a National Members Contact List. The Association offers specialist advice and information to all widows and their families regardless of age, circumstances, or the length of their widowhood, and monitors government legislation affecting widows and their families.

Headquarters: 48 Queens Road, Coventry, CV1 3EH; tel. 024 7663 4848, Monday-Thursday, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.

The Compassionate Friends

Founded in 1969, The Compassionate Friends is a nationwide organisation of bereaved parents offering friendship and understanding to other bereaved parents, with links around the world. It produces a range of leaflets and a quarterly *Newsletter*, and also maintains an extensive postal library.

Headquarters: 53 North Street, Bristol, BS3 1EN; tel. 0117 953 9639 (this is also the number of the **Helpline**).

SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society)

SANDS provides support for bereaved parents and their families when a baby dies at or soon after birth. The key elements of that support are a national telephone helpline, a UK-wide network of local self-help groups run by bereaved parents, and information and publications for bereaved families and health professionals.

Headquarters: 28 Portland Place, London, W1B 1LY; tel. 020 7436 7940, Monday-Friday, 10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.

Helpline: 020 7436 5881, Monday-Friday, 10.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m. (an answerphone will say when to call back outside these hours)

FSID (Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths)

FSID, established in 1971, is the largest funder of cot death research in the UK. It publishes leaflets and books giving information on sudden infant death (cot death) for health professionals, counsellors, bereaved parents and children who have had to face the death of a sibling. It also maintains a 24-hour helpline staffed by trained advisers.

Headquarters: Artillery House, 11-19 Artillery Row, London, SW1P 1RT; tel. 020 7222 8001; fax 020 7222 8002; e-mail fsid@sids.org.uk

Website: www.sids.org.uk/sid/ (contains over 120 pages of bereavement support, research and information on reducing the risk of cot death)

Helpline: 020 7233 2090 (24 hours)

Child Death Helpline

Operated from Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, and the Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, this confidential helpline is available to anyone affected by the death of a child.

Helpline: Freephone 0800 282986, daily, 7.00-10.00 p.m.; Mon., Wed., Fri., 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.



'You live in your marriage the hopes and difficulties of the path to Christian Unity.' *Pope John Paul II, York 1982*

Association of Interchurch Families, Inter-Church House, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7SA.

Tel: 020 7523 2152. Fax: 020 7928 0010. E-mail aife@msn.com. Registered Charity No. 283811.

Presidents: The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Archbishop of Westminster, The Moderator of the Free Churches' Council, The Revd Dr Kenneth Greet, Dr Ruth Reardon

Rainbows

Founded in 1982 in Chicago, this international organisation has now worked with almost one million children, young people and adults. It began to operate in England in 1993, and helps children and young people to work through the grieving they experience after the loss of a parent through death, or through separation or divorce.

National Office: 17 Market Square, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, NN10 8DJ; tel. 01933 355175

National Association of Bereavement Services

Founded in 1988 to bring together individuals and groups actively involved in the care of the dying and bereaved. It is a co-ordinating body for bereavement and loss services, and can put bereaved and grieving people in touch with their nearest local support service.

Headquarters: 2nd Floor, 4 Pinchin Street, London, E1 1SA; tel. 020 7709 0505

Helpline: 020 7709 9090

The organisations listed above were checked in September 2001, and descriptions were correct at that time. There are other, more specialised, organisations; a useful list, with addresses and telephone numbers, can be found in the booklet available free from local Social Security offices, *D 49 What to do after a death* (England and Wales; there is a separate leaflet for Scotland).