

Information about your child's burial

All children who died before, during or after their birth must be buried, regardless of how many weeks pregnant you were, or the reason for their death. This is regulated by the law of the State of Baden-Württemberg. Depending on the specific circumstances, it is either the duty of the clinic or the parents to organise the funeral.

If your child was not aborted and weighed more than 500 grams at birth, alive or dead, then the funeral obligations lie with you as parents. The city of Tübingen has set up a children's grave called "Schmetterling" in the "Bergfriedhof" cemetery for such cases. However, it will depend on your place of residence as to whether this place is suitable for your particular circumstances. If you are obliged to arrange the funeral yourself, you are responsible both for its organisation and cost.

Where children are born after an abortion or are stillborn, and weigh less than 500 grams, the maternity clinic will usually organise the funeral. They are buried together in the children's "Schmetterling" grave twice a year, following cremation. The costs are borne by the University Hospital Tübingen.

This communal burial of the youngest usually takes place on the 2nd Friday in May and October. It will be accompanied by an ecumenical service at 1:00 pm at Tübingen's Bergfriedhof cemetery. All children born at the University Women's Hospital by the end of the previous month are buried at the next ceremony. You and your relatives are cordially invited to this service; all denominations or religions are welcome. You will not receive another invitation.



Current developments (e.g. due to the pandemic) may cause something to change in the short term. We cannot inform you individually, so please check our website regularly for updates: www.klinikseelsorge-tuebingen.de (Über uns | Termine).

You do of course maintain the right to organise your child's burial yourself, even where this would normally fall under the remit of the clinic. In this case, the costs would be for your own account. Should you wish to exercise the right to burial yourself, you must inform the pathology team in good time before 30.04 or 30.09. Please contact the institute for pathology on 07071 29-83122 and the responsible cemetery administration team (in Tübingen: 07071 204-1880). If you have any further questions, please contact the hospital's pastoral care team.

If you live further away and would like your child to be buried close to home, the pathologist will help you establish whether your child can be given a collective burial with another clinic, for example one closer to your normal residence.

Children born dead before the 23rd week of pregnancy, weighing less than 500 grams, are not registered. Since 2013 however, it is possible for parents of these children to register the birth at the registry office. In this way, you can officially give your child a name and a permanent document of its existence. For more information, please contact the registry office at the women's hospital (level 1) or the registry office in Tübingen.

Contact addresses:

- ▶ Protestant pastoral care
Tel 07071 29-86226 or -85622
ufk-seelsorge@med.uni-tuebingen.de
- ▶ Catholic pastoral care
Tel 07071 29-80902 or -83280
ufk-seelsorge@med.uni-tuebingen.de
- ▶ Islamic pastoral care
Tel 07071 29-87679
hazem.elgafari@med.uni-tuebingen.de