

Memorial Book of Pregnancy and Baby Loss Prior to 24 Weeks FAQ

Q: What is the Memorial Book of Pregnancy and Baby Loss Prior to 24 weeks (the Memorial Book)?

A: The Memorial Book of Pregnancy and Baby Loss Prior to 24 Weeks is a joint initiative between the Scottish Government and the National Records of Scotland (NRS). It was developed after listening to people who have experienced a pregnancy or baby loss prior to 24 weeks of pregnancy. It offers the opportunity to provide recognition and may offer comfort to those who wish to have a record of their loss.

Q: How can I apply?

A: You can apply:

- by going online to www.nrscotland.gov.uk/registration/memorial-book-of-pregnancy-and-baby-loss-prior-to-24-weeks and downloading and printing the application form. The completed application form can then be printed and posted to NRS, or you can email a scanned copy of the completed form to NRS, provided that the form has been signed in ink (a typed signature will not be accepted).

OR

- Alternatively, you can request that an application form from NRS be posted to you. You will then need to return the completed application form in the post, to the return address provided on the form.

Q: What will I receive?

A: You will receive a free commemorative certificate. This is a copy of the information recorded in the Memorial Book of Pregnancy and Baby Loss Prior to 24 weeks held by National Records of Scotland.

Q: Can I have more than one copy of the certificate?

A : Yes, additional copies of the certificate can be requested when you apply, or at a later date, free of charge.

Q: Do I legally have to record my loss?

A: No, it is your choice whether to record your loss or not.

Q: Will I need to provide medical evidence of my loss?

A: No, this is not required.

Q: How much will this service cost?

A: This service is free of charge.

Q: My loss was several years ago, can I apply for a certificate?

A: Yes, historical applications are very welcome.

Q: I have experienced more than one loss, will I be able to get more than one certificate and entry into the memorial book?

A: Yes, you can apply to have more than one loss recorded, all you need to do is complete a separate application for each one.

Q: My partner has died as well as our baby. Can I apply for a certificate?

A: Yes, if the mother/woman/person who has had the loss has died, the father/parent/partner can be the sole applicant.

Q: I am the father/parent/partner of the baby but the mother/woman/person who has had the physical loss does not want to apply. Can I apply on my own?

A: No, if the mother/woman/person who has had the loss is still living, they must apply.

Q: Can I be named on the certificate as the father/parent/partner of the mother/woman/person who has had the loss?

A: Yes, as long as the mother/woman/person who has had the loss agrees, and you both sign the same application form, you can be named on the certificate.

Q: I was out of the country when I had my loss. Can I apply for a certificate?

A: Yes, if you are normally resident in Scotland you can apply for a certificate.

Q: I had a termination. Can I apply for a certificate?

A: Yes, if you wish to have a record of your loss you can apply for a certificate.

Q: If I am concerned about the length of time that has passed since I submitted my application, how would I get an update?

A: Please contact the Memorial Book team at MemorialBook@nrscotland.gov.uk.

Q. Will the information that I send to you be kept secure?

A: The entry in the Memorial Book will be securely stored at NRS and only available to a limited number of staff. NRS will use information from the entry in the Memorial Book to create an index which will be accessible by a limited number of staff.

Q: Is the Memorial Book visible to the public?

A: No, requests for access to data held in the Memorial Book are considered only for the person(s) explicitly named in the application process and if the request is made by those named persons.

In the case of an applicant's passing, NRS cannot refuse access to a person's data under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). However, NRS will look to maintain a duty of confidentiality with regards to personal data held within the Memorial Book. Consideration on whether information should be produced in response to a Freedom of Information request would therefore depend on individual circumstances and any relevant exemptions.