

The funeral

It is unimaginable that you have to think about your baby's funeral when you have just become parents (again). Yet this is the reality and there are choices to be made in the short term. Here we will tell you about the different choices you can make and what possibilities there are. The most important thing is to make choices that suit you and feel good for you.

Setting up the basket/box

How would you like to bring the basket/chest into the room for the farewell? Do you want the basket to be there already and for you to be in the room when your guests arrive or do you prefer to carry your child in the basket or coffin when everyone is seated?

Basket/box open or closed

It is also important that you think in advance about an open basket/box or whether you would prefer it to be closed during the service.

An open basket/box gives those present the opportunity to get to see and admire your baby. If they have seen your baby, the conversation afterwards will be a little easier. The closing of the basket takes place at the end of the service. Think carefully about who you want to be there, because this is a very emotional and intense moment. For example, you could choose to have everyone leave the room and stay with a small group to close the basket.

If you prefer to keep the image of your baby to yourself, you can close the basket/chest before the service. You can then close the basket/coffin at home, for example, so that it can proceed peacefully and there is no time pressure. You can also decide to leave the basket closed during the service and when the guests have left or gone to the coffee room, to open the basket together one last time, to say goodbye and to close it again together.

Dress up the room

You can make the room beautiful with candles, flowers, cuddly toys, photos and other things that suit you. Do bear in mind the booked auditorium time. It is often not possible to enter the auditorium very far in advance and everything must be cleared away again within the time allowed. You can ask the cemetery/crematorium in advance exactly how much time you will have.

Seat arrangement

In many auditoriums the chairs are arranged in rows, which does not really suit a baby. Many parents prefer to sit in a circle around their child or to arrange the chairs in a U-shape. Ask about the possibilities. Some auditoriums charge extra for this. Also think about who sits where. Who do you want close to you, so they can be of support? And who would be better off not sitting next to each other? Because unfortunately there are sometimes disturbed family relationships and it would be very unpleasant if they overshadowed your child's farewell.



Receiving guests

How do you want your guests to arrive? Do you want to ask them in yourself? Or do you prefer the funeral director to do that? Or do you want to come in last when everyone is seated? Would you like music to be played when your guests enter? If you choose a piece of music with a special text, it is better to have it played if everyone can listen to it properly. Or do you prefer to enter in silence?

Speeches

During the service, the parents can speak, but you can also ask friends or family to say something. This can be a piece of writing yourself, but you can also read a poem or tell a story.

If you want to say something yourself, it will probably be very emotional. You can ask someone in advance to take over your speech and read it from paper if you are unable to do so.

Music

We have included a [special link](#) with suggestions for music to accompany your baby's farewell. Of course, you can choose any piece of music you like. If there are children present at the farewell, you can also choose some children's songs. You can also ask people around you to play or sing something live.

Flowers

Flower arrangements come in all shapes and sizes. Florists often have special flower arrangements for children, such as a heart, star or butterfly. You can order flowers from a funeral florist, but you can also ask the florist at the corner to make something for you or you can make something yourself. When choosing flowers, think about the size of the basket. It is best to order small flower arrangements that are no bigger than the basket. You can also choose to have all guests bring one flower to make a nice bouquet. You can then choose to take it home or to leave it at the grave.

Souvenir booklet

A book of condolence often accompanies a funeral. For a baby, many parents do not find this appropriate and choose a memorial book with blank pages in which all the guests can write something or the children present can draw something. If you add colored pens or markers, it becomes more informal and it will be a colorful memorial book.



Photos

You have so few memories that it is important to have photos of everything, including the funeral. You can do this yourself, ask family/friends or hire a funeral photographer. If you opt for specialist baby funeral care, the funeral director can take photos himself. They always offer this service and have a lot of experience with it.

Videos

Moving images and sound are also very important. You want to remember everything and with video you can easily recall the images. In most auditoriums it is possible to have the service recorded. This is done with cameras in the ceiling that are hardly noticeable. The quality is good but not excellent. You can also choose to set up your own video camera on a tripod or hire someone to make a professional farewell video.

You can also choose to have the service streamed so that people who cannot be present at the service can still follow it from a distance.

Catering

If you want to have something to eat with your guests, you could think of 'beschuit met muisjes' (Dutch biscuit with sugarcoated anis seed, traditional to celebrate a baby) to celebrate the birth of your child. If you choose to have the gathering at home, you can even make or bake something. If you choose to hold the service in the auditorium of a crematorium or cemetery, this is often not permitted and you will have to make use of the catering options they offer. There are often price lists for these on the website or your funeral director can help you further.

Farewell ritual

Letting go of your baby is of course impossible. That is why it is nice to let go with a ritual. Balloons, bubbles or butterflies are some examples. You can also give your baby ribbons in his hand that you let hang out of the basket. At the moment of saying goodbye, cut the ribbons and half stays with your baby and half with you.

Give your baby something meaningful

Many parents like to give something to their baby. This can be a cuddly toy or a photo of themselves or the family, but also a letter, a drawing, a piece of jewelry or a piece of clothing. Choose something that is meaningful to you. If there is breast milk, you can also give your baby some.

Involving children in the service

If there are children at the service, it is nice to give them a role or to play songs that are especially for children. For example, you can ask them to make a drawing for the baby and put it next to or in the basket. They can also light a candle (with help from an adult), blow bubbles or read something aloud (for older children).

When the children are still very small, it can be nice to have a babysitter who can walk away with them if the child no longer likes it or starts crying. This avoids disrupting the service and distracting yourself.

