

SIDS and Accidental Death Support for the Family Child Care Provider

Confronting the tragedy of infant and child death from the perspective of the family child care provider or center caregiver is a life changing experience. Most resources are readily available to the parents while the provider often seems excluded from the process. As a provider, we grieve and experience the death on a highly personal level, often not recognized by licensing and authorities who are part of the investigation and follow up. This website is designed to be a support for the provider/caregiver. The purpose of this site is to allow providers to access resources available to them in Minnesota and empower the grieving provider to reach out to the support groups and resources available to her/him.

The Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs (ASIP) published a document in 2001 entitled ***The Unexpected Death of an Infant or Child: Standards for Services to Families***. Kathleen Fernbach of the Minnesota SIDS Foundation was instrumental in the development of the original document.

Standards and the Family Child Care Provider/Center Caregiver

- What to Expect When the 911 Call is Made
- Death Scene Investigation
- Who Calls the Parents?
- Support and Counseling from Agencies
- Peer Support for Caregivers

Other Links on this website will bring you to:

Standards for services were developed as related to:

- Family of the infant or child
- First Responders – Law Enforcement, Fire, Ambulance Personnel
- Hospital Emergency Department
- Investigative Personnel
- Coroners or Medical Examiners
- Spiritual Advisors
- Funeral Directors
- Community Health Nurse, Social Worker
- Extended Family, Child Care Providers and Co-Workers
- Peer Support
- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing for first responders who have experienced the sudden death of an infant from SIDS or an accident.

The Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Program has created a document entitled *The Unexpected Death of an Infant or Child: Standards for Services to Families*. To view the full document to go:

http://www.asip1.org/images/ASIP_Standards.pdf

History of the SIDS/Accidental Death Project

Scott County experienced the death of two infants in licensed family child care homes. This created an awareness of the need for more support to providers, children and families who experience a tragedy such as the sudden death of an infant due to an accident or SIDS. Another goal of the project was to educate providers, parents and professionals of any resources available to make the cause of death investigation, responses, support, and information available to make the experience as supportive as is possible under the circumstances to all involved. Providers have expressed the feeling of helpless and being lost in seeking resources to help them deal with the experience they hope no other provider ever has to deal with. A committee was formed within the Scott-Carver Child Care Advisory Council under the direction of Marie Johnson to listen to concerns of providers who have experienced SIDS and brainstorm what could be done to provide a “provider support system” for family child care providers. A small grant from the MN Child Care Service Development grants was secured to use toward presenting the findings and recommendations of this committee. Beth Mork, Former Family Child Care Provider from Champlin, MN and consultant, was contracted to put together a research and heart based approach of support for the family child care provider.