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Memorial Photography and Keepsakes

In the first hours... difficult as it may be, photographs taken of the baby may bring comfort to parents later on.

Paige remembers her experience with *Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep*:

"The pictures I have of Cayden mean more to me than I can express. They keep his memory alive, they help others remember him, and they honor his short life in a way that nothing else does. I ache for families who did not have the opportunity to have photos taken of their sweet babies. Looking at his face reminds me that he existed, he is loved, and he will always be a part of our lives."

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep Foundation Remembrance Photography provides free photography of infants who have passed away, or who are dying, from trained and sensitive professional photographers who are experienced in working with parents suffering the loss of a baby.

To find a photographer, go to <https://www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org> and select "Families" and scroll down to "Find a Photographer".

At first many parents are not comfortable with getting photographs of their baby. But later on many are so thankful if they did. Parents don't have to look at the photos right away, but they will be there when and if parents are ready. This time never comes back.

Why take pictures?

- A picture helps to confirm your baby's existence, and helps you share your baby with other people.
- Sometimes a photo can be the only tangible memory of what your baby looked like. For siblings who weren't yet born or were too young at the moment of the baby's death, it is meaningful to be able to show them a picture saying: "This is your brother, your sister."

Over the coming weeks and months ... consider other ways of honoring your baby:

- **Photo re-touching:** **Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep** offers digital photo retouching, free for bereaved parents, even if the photo wasn't taken by them. Photos can be enhanced to correct discoloration and other issues that don't show the baby that you remember and love. <https://www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org>
- **Memorial Portraits by Dana:** Using babies' photographs, with ongoing input from parents, Dana hand-draws beautiful pencil portraits to honor and remember missing babies. Website: <https://www.portraitsbydana.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/portraitsbydana>
- **Memorial Jewelry and Keepsakes:** There are many options for beautiful memorial jewelry, such as pendants hand stamped with your baby's name and birthdate, and pendants that hold small amounts of your baby's remains, if he or she was cremated. For examples, see: <https://myforeverchild.com> Other resources for memorial keepsakes can be found at <http://nationalshare.org/support-resources/memorial-keepsakes>
- **How to Obtain Certified Copies of Fetal Death and Still Birth Records:**
California Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records, (916) 445-2684
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Vital-Records-Obtaining-Certified-Copies-of-Fetal-Death--Still-Birth-Records.aspx>