

CHILD DEATH HISTORY CHECKLIST

(Applicable to both Health and Police information gathering)

The child

- First name and family name (plus any other names by which the child may be known)
- If possible, obtain the NHS number as this may facilitate access to other records
- GP details
- Date of birth and place of birth

Mother

- Full name (plus any other names by which the mother may be known)
- Full address, including post code
- NHS number if possible
- GP details
- Date of birth
- First Language
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- Any special needs
- Phone number (home number and mobile number) and phone number of any available close relative or friend (to facilitate making contact again)
- Address to which mother will be returning when she leaves the hospital, plus phone number there and the name of the person with whom mother will be staying

Mother's partner and/or father of child

- Full name (including any other names by which he may be known)
- Full address, including post code
- Date of birth
- GP details
- Phone number (home number and mobile number) and phone number of any available close relative or friend (to facilitate making contact again)
- Address to which father/partner will be returning when he leaves the hospital, plus phone number here and the name of the person with whom he will be staying

Other members of the household (present and in the recent past)

- Names
- Dates of birth
- Relationship to child who has died.

Family medical history

- A detailed account of past medical and social history of all members of the immediate family and household
- Name and date and place of birth of any previous children of the parents
- Detailed information on any deaths in infancy or childhood of any offspring, siblings or other close relatives of any member of the current household (to include as much information as possible concerning date of birth, age at death, place of death, cause of death)

Social and family history

- Detailed account of the social structure of the family and of the household, including detailed information on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, together with information on any prescription or non-prescription medications that may have been present or in use in the household
- Information on recent changes in composition of the household (e.g. who has come and who has gone, and for what reasons)

Detailed medical history of mother

- Details of past medical and social history of the mother, including any significant past illnesses or injuries
- Detailed past obstetric history, including detailed information on the pregnancy leading to the birth of the child who has died

Detailed medical and developmental history of the child who has died

- To include:
 - Gestation
 - Birth weight
 - Perinatal or neonatal problems
 - Type of feeding (and date and reason for changing type of feeding)
 - Growth, development and past assessments (e.g. health visitor or GP routine, well-baby checks)
 - Immunisations
 - Any known contact with infection
 - Medication (either prescribed or over the counter)
 - Obtain the parent-held child health record (this should be retained by the Police) and plot the weight record onto a centile chart.
- A detailed narrative account of the child's feeding, sleeping, activity and health over the two-week period prior to the death. This should include information on:
 - Changes in feeding or sleeping patterns
 - Changes in place of sleep
 - Changes in individuals responsible for providing care to the child
 - Any social, family or health related changes in routine practices over the past two weeks
 - Any illness, accident or other major event affecting other family members in the past two weeks.
 - The use of any intercom equipment
- A detailed (hour-by-hour) narrative account of events within the 48 hours prior to the infant being found dead. should include a detailed description of:
 - Precisely where the child was placed for sleep
 - Duration of sleeping period
 - Position at the end of the sleeping periods
 - Any changes in routine care or routine activity levels
 - Parents' perception of whether the child was feeding as well as, or less well than, usual in the past 24-28 hours
 - Any vomiting
 - Any respiratory difficulty, noisy breathing, in-drawing of the ribs, wheezing or stridor
 - Excessive sweating
 - Unusual activity
 - Unusual behaviour
 - Level of alertness

- Difficulty sleeping
- Difficulty waking the child
- Passage of stool and urine (how often and how much)
- Any disruptions to normal patterns
- Information on the activity and location of all significant members of the household
- Information on alcohol intake and recreational drug use by members of the household during this period

The final sleep

- A detailed description of when and where the child was placed to sleep, to include:
 - The nature of the surface
 - Clothing
 - Bedding
 - Arrangement of bedding
 - Precise sleeping position
 - Who was sharing the surface on which child was sleeping (e.g. bed or sofa)
 - How often the child was checked
 - When he or she was seen or heard
 - The time at which the child awoke for feeds
 - Whether feeds were given
 - Whether they were taken well
 - Who else was in the room at each stage
 - What were the activities of others in the room
 - Were they awake
 - Where, when and by whom was the child found
 - What was the position of the child when found
 - Where was the bedding
 - Were there any covers over the child
 - Had the covers and the position of the covers moved
 - Were there other objects in the cot or bed adjacent or close to the child (e.g. teddies, dolls, pillows)
 - Was the heating on
 - What type of heating was there
 - Were the windows and/or doors open?
 - Room temperature if available - or whether a room thermometer was regularly used

Action after child was found

- A detailed narrative account of events that followed the discovery of the child collapsed or apparently dead, to include details of:
 - When, how and by whom the emergency services were called
 - Who was with the child at each stage
 - Was resuscitation attempted and if so by whom
 - Were any responses obtained from the child
 - How long it took for the emergency services to arrive

Further specific questions

- Were any healthcare professionals consulted within the past two weeks, the past 48 hours or the past 24 hours; If so, who was contacted, what was the problem described to the healthcare professionals and what advice was given
- Was the child seen and assessed by any healthcare professional during the past two weeks?