

Thank you for your recent expression of interest in obtaining assistance for a bereaved family through The TEARS Foundation. Please note that we only accept applications submitted through an Approved Provider. To become an Approved Provider, you must review and acknowledge the policies and procedures of The TEARS Foundation, as summarized below.

Once you are approved as a provider, we may also identify you as an Approved Provider in TEARS materials provided to hospitals, law enforcement, and other agencies working with bereaved families. If you are interested in becoming an Approved Provider, please review the summary below of our policies and procedures, and return a signed copy of this letter.

Funeral Assistance Applications

The TEARS Foundation provides funeral assistance for bereaved families of up to \$500 for the cost of burial services, including grave markers. If the bereaved family chooses cremation, then TEARS offers assistance of up to \$250 towards the cremation and professional services (including, but not limited to, transportation, cremation container, professional services, and funeral services). An additional \$250 of assistance may be offered to a family electing cremation for the purchase of a special urn, merchandise, remembrance jewelry, or similar item. Please provide a current infant price list or general price list with information on how you determine infant prices.

Although we would like to provide assistance for all bereaved families, The TEARS Foundation, like most charities, can only provide assistance to the extent of its limited resources. Please ensure that the bereaved family meets the following minimum requirements before suggesting that assistance may be available through The TEARS Foundation:

1. The family resides in or baby died in: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida(Central Florida region), Georgia(greater Atlanta area), Illinois(Cook, DuPage, Grundy and Will counties), Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York(Upstate), North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington State or Wyoming;
2. The bereaved family can demonstrate financial need (i.e. they cannot pay for the services themselves via savings, credit cards, family members, or through other assistance programs);
3. The baby who died was between 20 weeks gestation and up to one year of age; and
4. The loss was not the result of selective termination.

However, in honor of Charlie & Braden Powell, who lived in the community where The TEARS Foundation is headquartered, The TEARS Foundation recently established an additional assistance program for families coping with the tragic, unexpected death of a child. Under the Charlie & Braden Project, assistance may be provided for children beyond one year of age if:

1. The loss was the result of an accident, homicide, suicide, or Sudden Unexpected Death of a Child (SUDC);
2. The child was between the ages of 1 and 12 years of age; and
3. The bereaved family otherwise qualifies for funeral assistance, as described above.

Note that all assistance requests are subject to fund availability, and final approval is within the sole and unilateral discretion of The TEARS Foundation. The TEARS Foundation may deny assistance under certain extraordinary circumstances. Do not represent to the bereaved family that assistance is certain or guaranteed.

If you are speaking with a bereaved family that may qualify for assistance under the above prerequisites, please complete the relevant application, copies of which are enclosed for your use, and return it by fax (253-848-0299) or e-mail (office@thetearsfoundation.org). Please include:

1. A fully itemized statement of the goods and services provided;
2. A copy of the certified death certificate or fetal death certificate (to include all pages)
 - *AZ – if Fetal, please include transit permit
 - *WA – if Fetal, please include 2 page Fetal Death Certificate Worksheet; and
3. A copy of the application signed by the bereaved family.

Upon receipt of the application, the bereaved family will be contacted by a representative of The TEARS Foundation to confirm their qualifications, to include their financial need. You may expedite the process by having the family contact The TEARS Foundation while they are in your office. We may be reached at 253-200-0944.

It is vital to properly screen potential applicants under the guidelines presented herein in order to avoid the emotion impact of a denied application on a newly bereaved family. Funeral homes who are approved providers will be willing to accept other resources & forms of payment that are available to families prior to accepting payment from TEARS. (i.e.; State funeral aid, crime victims funds, tribal aid, community resources, etc.) Funeral home & cemetery staff will work with TEARS Foundation staff in a respectful way to assist families in need. Approved provider funeral homes will provide compassionate, respectful service to the families they are working with who are requesting TEARS assistance.

Note that The TEARS Foundation **will not** provide assistance for:

1. An application received more than 30 days after the date of services;

2. Burial or cremation services that were already paid for by the bereaved family or on their behalf (no reimbursements);
3. Burial or cremation services that were advertised by the funeral provider as being free of charge; and
4. Airfare, obituary postings, or other extraordinary items not directly related to burial or cremation;

Jesse’s Grant Marker Program

The TEARS Foundation purchases gravemarkers (typically flat granite markers) for families who otherwise qualify for funeral assistance, as summarized above, but have been unable to purchase a marker for their child in the six months, or more, following their loss. If the child’s cemetery requires a specific marker, and our markers do not qualify, The TEARS Foundation may offer up to \$500 towards the cost. Enclosed is an application for the Jesse’s Grant program.

Emotional Support Programs and Gatherings

Beyond the financial assistance described above, The TEARS Foundation coordinates support groups for bereaved families, to include siblings. So far groups have been established in Alaska, Florida, New Jersey, and Washington. As part of these support groups, peer companions may be available to talk over the phone or to meet with a bereaved family. The selected peer companions have been a bereaved parent or family member for more than two years, and have completed a TEARS training program.

Each state chapter also conducts various fundraising and community events, which generally include a walk and other special events. The “Rock & Walk” events provide an opportunity to build community awareness about pregnancy and infant loss, while also offering bereaved families the chance to honor the life of their child.

Even if a bereaved family does not qualify for financial assistance, they are welcome to participate in the TEARS support groups or our community gatherings. Enclosed is an emotional support request form.

Auditing

After assistance is provided, The TEARS Foundation will contact the bereaved family to ensure that the provider complied with the above procedures. We will notify you of any irregularities discovered through the audit. Multiple or serious violations of our guidelines may be cause for termination of your Approved Provider status.

Use of our trademarks, name, and logos



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www.TheTearsFoundation.org

Although we welcome the opportunity to join with providers to support bereaved families, please note that The TEARS Foundation’s trademarks, name, and logos, to include your potential status as an Approved Provider, may not be used in any promotional or similar materials without the express written consent (in advance) of The TEARS Foundation. If you wish to include our trademarks, name, and logos or your status as an Approved Provider, please send us a written summary of the proposal. Approval may be granted within the sole discretion of The TEARS Foundation. Any improper or unauthorized use of our trademarks, name, logos or your Approved Provider designation may be cause for termination of your Approved Provider status.

Nothing in this letter should be interpreted as a binding contract between you and The TEARS Foundation. Each application for assistance is reviewed on a case by case basis, and The TEARS Foundation does not provide any guaranty or assurance that assistance will be provided to any particular bereaved family. This letter is merely a summary of The TEARS Foundations operations and procedures, and your acknowledgment of the requirements to submit an application for assistance.

If you wish to be considered an Approved Provider, please sign and return a copy of this letter prior at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Sarah Slack

I, _____, on behalf of _____, have reviewed the above summary of the policies and procedures of The TEARS Foundation, along with the provided application materials. I agree to comply with these policies and procedures when submitting applications for assistance on behalf of bereaved families, and to timely respond and cooperate with The TEARS Foundation in processing and providing supplementary information in support of the application. I acknowledge that my failure to comply with these policies and procedures may lead to (1) the denial of the bereaved family’s application and/or (2) the termination of my status as an Approved Provider. Furthermore, I agree that The TEARS Foundation may identify my status (or termination of my status) as an Approved Provider to third parties.

FUNERAL HOME/CEMETERY NAME

By:
Its: