



Child Death Overview Panel — Advice for Parents



What is a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)?

This is a multi-agency panel (referred to as a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)) that looks at all child deaths in a wider context than the earlier stages of the review, which would have considered your child individually. The deaths of all children under the age of 18 must be reviewed by a CDOP.

There are a number of panels around the country, and your child's death will usually be considered by the panel local to where your child was normally resident.

CDOPs are groups of professionals who meet several times a year to review all the child deaths in their area. The panel is not given the names of any children who died or any information that might make the report identifiable; all the details are dealt with anonymously. Their main purpose is to learn from these deaths in order to try and prevent future deaths

Although the panel will not include the professionals who were involved in your child's death, they will receive a report from the professionals who were involved. The CDOP makes recommendations and reports about the lessons learned to those responsible at a local level. They do not produce reports about the death of individual children, but each CDOP produces an annual report which is a public document. Anyone can read the annual report, but it does not contain any details that could identify an individual child or their family.

Information sourced from NHS England booklet titled "When a Child Dies – A guide for Parents and Carers" with thanks

Who is on the panel?

The Panel has representatives from:

- **public health**
- **local child health**
- **social care services**
- **the police.**

Other professionals may be invited to give specialist advice where needed.

By law all child deaths should be reviewed to try to prevent future deaths where possible

Can you be involved in the Child Death Overview panel?

Parents and carers are not invited to be part of the panel, but you may be invited to contribute any comments you might have into the review of your child's death. Although individual deaths are not reported, you may be given some feedback if there is specific learning that is identified or a recommendation suggested at the meeting that is relevant to your child's death.

Where can I find more support?

Child Death Helpline:

0800 282 986 / 0808 800 6019

Or visit—<http://childdeathhelpline.org.uk>

Compassionate Friends:

0845 1423 2304 / info@tcf.org.uk

Or visit — www.tcf.org.uk

Martin House:

01937 845045 or visit—
www.martinhouse.org.uk

The Lullaby Trust:

www.lullabytrust.org.uk/bereavement-support/