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SANDS PUBLISHES NEW LEAFLET TO HELP EMPLOYERS SUPPORT BEREAVED PARENTS ON THEIR RETURN TO WORK

17 babies die every day in the UK, and Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, plays a vital role in helping to improve the services offered to bereaved parents immediately after the tragedy, and in the weeks, months and years that follow.

This week, a new leaflet, *'Information for Employers - Helping a bereaved parent return to work'*, is published by Sands. The leaflet provides invaluable practical information and support for employers who are faced with the difficult and sensitive task of dealing with a staff member whose baby has died.

The leaflet gives employers detailed guidance on managing the sensitive issues which arise when a member of staff whose child was stillborn or died shortly after birth, returns to work. "This leaflet will ensure that employers are equipped to deal sensitively and knowledgeably with a member of staff who has been through such an unimaginable trauma," said Judith Schott, Sands Improving Bereavement Care Manager and co-author of the leaflet. "It is crucial that employers have some guidance about issues which may arise when the employee returns to work, and about how best to deal with the situation.

"Making the decision to return to work is often extremely stressful and upsetting for bereaved mothers and bereaved fathers. They are likely to feel vulnerable and anxious, as they deal with issues such as time off work and informing colleagues and staff members about what has happened. Our leaflet aims to cover the practicalities, but also explains how best to deal with the emotional issues which will inevitably arise." she said.

Sands' leaflet is the latest in a series of publications aimed at providing support when a baby dies. It is available now from Sands. A similar leaflet aimed at bereaved parents who are

returning to work is also available. For copies of either leaflet please contact Sands on 0207 436 7940 or order a copy online via the Sands shop, www.uk-sands.org/Shop.html.

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Key Information about Sands:

Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, was established by bereaved parents in 1978 and obtained charity status in 1981.

Sands core aims are to:

- Support anyone affected by the death of a baby;
- To work in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services offered to bereaved families; and
- To promote research and changes in practice that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives

Sands is a national organisation, with over 100 regional support groups across the UK.

Helpline: 020 7436 5881

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