

California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Program

SIDS Informational Portfolio Overview

The *SIDS Informational Portfolio* contains general information to educate newly bereaved families, childcare providers, foster parents and grandparents about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Based on the individual situation of each household, a needs assessment of the family and the outcome of the initial contact, the portfolio can easily be modified to include other materials. This packet of resources is available in English and Spanish. It is intended for all presumed SIDS cases and should be provided at the time of the home visit or can be sent via mail prior to the home visit. The basic portfolio can be modified to include educational/informational materials to meet the special needs of each SIDS case. For example there are handouts, booklets and/or website links for SIDS siblings, fathers, single parents, teen parents, twins and foster parents. Access the California SIDS Program website (www.californiasids.com) SIDS Coordinators section, Resources link for the contents of the basic *SIDS Informational Portfolios* and special needs modifications.

A *SIDS Informational Portfolio* is also available for the infant's health care provider and is entitled, *Information for Health Care Professionals Whose Patient Has Died of SIDS*. This resource packet is intended to comply with the legislative mandates which require that the infant's physician of record for all presumed SIDS cases is "consulted" by the PHN/Social Worker (SB362, Section 462). It provides essential information about SIDS and is designed to notify the physician of record of the death of his/her patient. The PHN/Social Worker should encourage the infant's health care provider to support the family by serving as a medical expert to answer any questions pertaining to the infant's cause of death and /or autopsy results.

It is the responsibility of the SIDS Coordinator to ensure the materials for the portfolios are up to date by reviewing the California SIDS Program website on a regular basis. It is suggested that each local health jurisdiction have a procedure for updating/maintaining a supply of the portfolios, handouts and modifications so when a sudden unexpected infant death occurs these materials are readily accessible. In addition, it is important to customize the packets with information specific to your health department such as the public health professional's business card, listing of local grief support groups, etc.

After providing the *SIDS Informational Portfolio* to those affected by the infant's death, the PHN/Social Worker can determine if other educational/informational materials would be helpful. These resources could include research articles, grief/bereavement materials, specific handouts and/or booklets to meet their individual needs and unique circumstances. Refer to *A Practical Guide to the SIDS Home Visit* for a complete listing of the portfolio contents, modifications available and instructions on documenting/reporting support services provided. This guide is posted on the Program's website in the SIDS Coordinator's section as a professional resource. For additional questions or further information, please contact the California SIDS Program via email at info@californiasids.com or call us at 800-369-SIDS (7437).



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