

nilmtdts

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

Why do you have a 25-week gestation age limit?

As a parent, I completely understand that any child, regardless of age or medical definition, is still a very loved and wanted person. As the co-founder of NILMDTS, I was charged with making the decision about what age is appropriate to offer our services. After speaking to many medical personnel and working with many active NILMDTS members, we agreed that 25 weeks was a good starting point for these services. However, as a safety net, we also determined that we will consider the advice of medical professionals. At their discretion, and should they think the child's condition warrants it, we will extend our services.

Please understand that we are not trying to determine at what gestation age an embryo actually becomes a baby. At this time our biggest issue is the lack of available members. At our current membership level, we can barely keep up with the considerable quantity of requests for our services. Many photographers have had to leave NILMDTS due to the emotional nature of the work, the physical requirements and personal time constraints. Sadly, until we gain more funding to help educate more potential members, we must use the 25-week gestation age as our standard. It is my hope that eventually we will have enough members to handle every parent's request.

I would also like to add a side note. Another issue that we see with early gestation loss is the baby's condition. I have photographed babies that are in perfect condition as early as 18 weeks gestation, and yet some babies at 20-25 weeks gestation were absolutely not in any condition to be photographed. You must understand that for many of our members, seeing these babies can be to disturbing and overwhelming. We have lost several members due to this scenario. Once again, we hope to work towards better funding so we can provide better training to hospital and medical personnel. We want them to know when it is appropriate to call us and when it is better not to offer our services.

I hope that you will consider these reasons as honest and forthright. Although I do not consider myself an expert on this subject, I am a mother of not only four wonderful children, but I too suffered a loss at 22-weeks gestation. Although, every family's story is different from mine, I know that we all share the universal love for our children, both here on earth and our heavenly babies.

With warm regard,



Sandy Puc'