

nīlmdts
Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

BEREAVEMENT GUIDE FOR HOSPITALS



nowilaymedowntosleep.org

LOCAL DISPATCH NUMBER: _____

WHEN TO CONTACT US

Please call between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm. You may call and leave a voicemail outside hours and it will be returned within 2 hours during volunteer hours.

GESTATIONAL GUIDELINE

Our guideline for dispatching a volunteer photographer for a Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep session is that the baby be at least 22 weeks gestation. This is a baseline from which medical professionals may deviate based upon their experience. It is possible that babies younger or older than 22 weeks would be either advisable or inadvisable. When in doubt please call your local dispatch line to discuss options.

STANDARD GIFT

Our standard gift to families includes a free professional photography session with images that are gently retouched and converted to black and white or sepia, along with a print release.

Normal turn-around time for the families to receive their images from a NILMDTS photographer is 6-8 weeks on average, with the ability for memorial service images to be rushed. Images submitted for retouching only can take up to 12 weeks.

These images are delivered via an online gallery and they are able to download free digital files. Families also have the option to order a free photo album.

QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE ASKED

When reaching out to request a photographer, your NILMDTS dispatcher may request the following information:

- Name and phone number of caller and family requesting services
- Hospital name and room number
- Gestational age
- Perceived emotional state of the family
- Baby's physical condition (i.e. —bruising, discoloration, malformation, skin tears, etc.)

OFFERING PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES TO BEREAVED FAMILIES

Contact a NILMDTS Affiliated Photographer IMMEDIATELY as soon as you find out that your institution may have a loss before presenting NILMDTS to your family. This will allow us more time to find a photographer for your family.

www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/find-photographers

Our goal is for all families in need of NILMDTS to be served with a photographic session. As a primarily volunteer organization, we unfortunately cannot guarantee that a photographer will be available to help every family. Occasionally, one of our volunteer photographers may not be available to take photographs. What can you, the medical professional, do in this situation?

IF A PHOTOGRAPHER IS UNAVAILABLE, HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER:

1. Can the photographer help the family later in the evening or even the next day? Maybe at the funeral home?
2. Does your hospital department or the family member have a digital camera or cell phone? If so, begin taking photographs – and take many. To assist you, review our Posing Guide. Those photos can be submitted to us for professional retouching. Please use your camera's largest possible file settings.
3. Use the instructions below to submit photos to NILMDTS Headquarters for retouching services. A Digital Retouch Artist will then electronically send the family their completed images. NOTE: Our Parent Consent Form must be signed by the family.

REQUESTING DIGITAL RETOUCHING

When a NILMDTS Affiliated Photographer is unavailable, we can still offer beautiful retouching of images taken by the family or hospital staff. To submit images:

1. Before sending images, back them up on your computer and save the pictures on a disk or memory card for your records.
2. **Please aim to submit the best images.** If possible, please submit images in a high-resolution format. If there are duplicate or extremely similar poses, we will retouch the best quality one within that grouping. Please note: not every image will be edited. We select the highest quality images for best results. Out of focus images will be retouched to the best of our ability, however some may not be able to be retouched.
3. If you only have a printed photograph you can scan them in as high-resolution files at a print shop and send the high-resolution digital files to us. Please note: retouching results may be limited due to the loss of resolution and quality in the transition from print or film to digital.
4. All retouching requests **MUST** be submitted with the completed and signed Parent Consent Form. You can find this form on our website link here:

www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/medical/authorization-consent/

5. Once you have the digital photographs and the completed and signed consent form, please submit the photographs and form via the following form on our website link here:

www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/retouching-request

Please note that it may take up to 6-12 weeks for retouching. If you have any questions or issues submitting, please contact us here: retouching@nilmdts.org

NILMDTS MEDICAL AFFILIATE PROGRAM

*As one of the few people who see and hold bereaved parents' babies,
you are able to offer a treasured gift of portraits to parents.*

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep is currently offering a continuing education course for members of the medical community. Find out more on our website link here:

www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/continuingeducation/

This continuing nursing education activity was approved by Colorado Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

SUGGESTED NILMDTS POSES

- Baby Alone
- Baby Alone, Hands
- Baby Alone, Feet
- Baby Alone, Ears & Hair
- Parent(s) with Baby

- All Hands Together
- Sibling(s) with Baby
- Extended Family with Baby
- Support Items In Room
(additional suggestions below)

The suggested poses list are merely an ideal photography list; rarely will you find a scenario where each of the items above can be checked off and accomplished. Refer to examples on the Posing Guide page.

SUPPORT ITEMS IN THE ROOM

BABY CLOTHING

Examples: booties, hats, and baby outfits.

PARENT(S) JEWELRY:

Having a familiar object in the image like jewelry helps to provide "scale." It is hard for parents to remember just how small their child was.

FAMILY MEMORABILIA:

Examples: flowers, crosses, baby blankets, stuffed animals, and any special gifts.

HOSPITAL MEMORABILIA:

Try to photograph all of the paper that is on or near the bed. Examples: birth or death certificate, parent(s) ID wristband, hand or footprints, and room signage.

REMOVAL OF LIFE SUPPORT

These cases are often the most difficult to coordinate and manage for nurses, social workers, and photographers. We never want the family to feel they have to immediately withdraw support due to a photographer's arrival. In order to keep our volunteers willing to serve other families, it is important that their time and emotional health be respected as well. With careful considerations made for a family and for our photographers, we suggest choosing one of two options for photography services in the case of removal of life support:

1. Before removal: If the family only wants photographs of the baby while he/she is living, this is the best option. The photographer will capture professional images while working around the medical equipment.
2. After removal (suggested): If the family does not want medical equipment in the photographs, this is the best option. We will do our best to have a photographer on call during a window of time and will stay in communication with medical personnel so that we can dispatch a photographer after removal has taken place. We have found that it is often ideal to wait until the baby has passed away to create the images. The baby can then be held in his/her parents' loving arms, the family has had a chance to privately grieve, and the photographer does not have concerns about causing the baby additional distress during the session.

If the family feels strongly that they want photographs both before and after removal, then we ask that a nurse or family member take photos before removal and call a photographer to capture photos after removal. Our volunteers are usually happy to edit a small selection of photos taken by others.



BABY ALONE



PARENT AND BABY



PARENTS WITH BABY



SIBLINGS WITH BABY



ENTIRE FAMILY WITH BABY



EXTENDED FAMILY WITH BABY

nowilmdts
Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

POSING GUIDE



TINIEST FEATURES



MULTIPLE BABIES



IMPLIED BABY



BABY ON LIFE SUPPORT



SUPPORT ITEMS

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT OUR MEDICAL AFFILIATE PROGRAM
nowilaymedowntosleep.org/medical

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT RETOUCHING ASSISTANCE
nowilaymedowntosleep.org/retouching