

WHAT IS SUDDEN INFANT DEATH?

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is the sudden and unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant which remains unexplained even after a thorough case investigation, including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene and review of the clinical history.

Investigations often reveal a cause of death in sudden and unexpected infant deaths; this is the reason why complete examinations are undertaken.

Even if a cause of death is not found, the baby or child must have had something abnormal which resulted in death. Unfortunately, with our existing scientific knowledge, we cannot always find the cause.

Whether a cause for death is found or not, the sudden and unexpected death of a child is devastating for the parents and family.

LINKS

- Health Canada
- The Canadian Pediatric Society
- The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Quebec
- The Compassionate Friends
- Mount Royal Commemorative Services
- The Canadian Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths
- The Quebec Coroners office
- www.facinggrief.com

International Links

- SIDS International
- Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs
- The CJ Foundation
- First Candle

The Jeremy Rill Centre

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L'Hôpital de Montréal pour enfants
The Montreal Children's Hospital
Centre universitaire de santé McGill
McGill University Health Centre

The Jeremy Rill Centre

Provincial network for sudden infant death



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The Jeremy Rill centre was created in 1986 by Andrée Laganière and Eric Rill In memory of their son Jeremy, who died suddenly and unexpectedly in his sleep at the age of five months.

OUR MANDATE

- To evaluate and improve the delivery of care to bereaved families
- To assist in the development of bereavement resources
- To provide consultation and support to health professionals
- To update and disseminate new knowledge and expertise in sudden infant death
- To organize ongoing educational workshops for professionals and students in various disciplines (nurses, other health professionals, police, etc.)
- To continue, in collaboration with government groups, public health campaigns to reduce the risk of sudden infant death
- To organize regional, national and international conferences for parents, health professionals and other interested groups
- To participate in national and international committees
- To organize and facilitate parent and grandparent support groups

OUR SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO FAMILIES

Throughout Quebec, the members of The Jeremy Rill Centre are responsible for:

- Coordinating the services given to families who have experienced the sudden death of a young infant or child under the age of two, whatever the disease
- Acute crisis management and assessment of family needs
- Providing bereavement services (memorial services, etc.)
- Explaining autopsy results to parents, with permission from the coroner
- Responding to the needs of parents who are expecting another child
- Partnering with health professionals in Aboriginal communities

LIBRARIES

The **Élisabeth Caron** library, a gift from Élisabeth's parents, in her memory, offer francophone families a vast selection of French literature written for grieving adults and children.

The **Nicolas Auger and Jake Goeb** library, offered by the families of Nicolas and Jake, in their memory, provides English-speaking families a wide range of books written for grieving adults and children.

RESOURCE NETWORK

Specialized nursing support

Teresa Gerez, Montreal and the province of Quebec

Diane Royer, Sherbrooke and surrounding area
Marie-Andree Gignac, Quebec

Members of the Network

Many health professionals become involved when a child dies suddenly. Services are offered by local health community clinics in every region of Quebec.

Also, specialized resources in sudden infant death are offered by physicians and nurses in the following regions:

- Baie-Comeau
- Montreal
- Quebec
- Saguenay
- Saint-Georges de Beauce
- Sherbrooke
- Rimouski
- Rouyn-Noranda



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IMPORTANT : PLEASE READ

Information provided in this pamphlet is for educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice or instruction of a professional healthcare practitioner, or to substitute medical care. Contact a qualified healthcare practitioner if you have any questions concerning your care.