

Our hearts are with you. We know from experience how lost you must feel. We also know how there is a system in place where you feel you are being kept from the one thing that need above all else - to be with your child.

We want you to know that you have the right to touch and see and be with your child, and to bring him and her home to say goodbye, without further intervention. We want you to know that you have the right to ask the Medical Examiner to release your child to your arms, so that you may say goodbye on your own terms. You had no choice in what has happened; you do have the choice to care for your child at home.

Here are some facts:

You still have some power even if you feel powerless.

This is your child and not the state's possession.

You have right to see and touch your child right now.

You can determine what happens to your child's body.

You can voice opposition to an autopsy on religious grounds.

Embalming is not necessary and not required by law and is only a further invasion of the body of your child.

Please accept these words from those who only wish you some comfort.

We offer them in love and peace.