# Memorial Website

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I never used to think much of memorial websites. Until I was pregnant with a child who was likely to die. Suddenly those sites which involved a child with a similar diagnosis were VERY meaningful to me. They can offer comfort to the families that create them, but far beyond that, they can offer hope, support, and encouragement to someone else in the same situation. It becomes a way to give your baby to the world, for a good purpose.

Do a net search for Memorial and you will come up with all sorts of things. Do one for Baby or Infant and Memorial, and you come up with a whole host of interesting things. Somewhere in there, you will find personal sites of people who have created their own site, along with websites dedicated to creating memorial sites for parents who have experienced infant loss. There are templates available (try Patch Of Heaven - Link at very bottom of this page), and many free services. Other people do this out of a desire to help those who are suffering.

Get Webspace. If you want to put a site in your own webspace, you can use free space (try Register.com, Netfirms.com, or Tripod.com), or low cost webspace (we recommend iPowerWeb [$10 per month] for best value for cost, or GoDaddy.com [$5 per month] if you need a less expensive solution - they are much slower though). If you use free space, it will have someone else's ads on it, either in a sidebar, bottom bar, or top banner. If you go with paid webspace, expect to pay $5 per month for adequate space, or $10 per month for very good space - price is not a determiner of quality though, please check out the companies we recommend if you want paid space, because there are a lot of unstable companies out there that sell more hype than value.

Choose a purpose for your site. Is it to pay tribute to your baby? Is it to help others in a similar situation? Is it to help people realize the value of your baby's life (and thereby the value of other lives)? Is it to help your child live on in a small way? Any or all of these are good reasons to do it. But if you understand your reasons, it will help you in deciding what you want to put on the site.

Tell a story. People love stories. Especially stories that help them. It does not matter if you want to make them laugh or cry. It helps them feel less alone. Your story is more than just a story. It is your baby's life, relived to benefit yet another person whom they did not know in mortality.

Provide some links. Give people links to pages that helped you. You can do this on another page, or at the bottom of a single page site.

Put up some clipart. Clipart is not photos, it is more like hand drawn artwork. Use images to help bring a feeling to the page. If they are coordinated with the page design they not only look nice, they help set an emotional tone for the page. There is a lot of free clipart available online for non-commercial use.

Add some photos. This may be touchy for some people. It may mean an unnecessary exposure of your child to unkind attitudes. We chose to post our baby's photo to help other parents understand what their child might look like. We decided it was worth the criticism if it helped someone. But if you feel that you do not want to take that risk, don't. And don't feel guilty. It is still your right to decide how best to safeguard your child in death, just as you did in life.

Protect the page. You can go to http://www.dynamicdrive.com and download a Javascript that you can put into your pages, which will prevent someone from right-clicking on your page (search using the terms "no right click"). You can

also get one to disable the IE 6 toolbar so they cannot use the image copy tool. You can even get one that keeps them from selecting text and copying it. Now, any techie can get around these pretty easily, but someone who is not well versed in web technical issues will be stopped from copying your photos or your story. If you need help with this, just email us and we will help you.

Promote your page. You may want to register your page with search engines, you may not. If you want to do so, go to Self Promotion.com, and use his service to submit your site. He provides links to the sites that you have to manually submit to so you don't have to find them yourself, or get your listing thrown out because someone auto-submitted it for you. His service is free, though he does accept donations. You can also email any webmaster for any site that you really like and that is appropriate, and give them your link. Tell them that you are putting a link to their site on yours, and that you would appreciate a link on their site. Most will do it. If you do not wish to promote your page, then just email the URL to people who you feel need it.