

# SPECIAL MATERNITY LEAVE IN CASE OF INFANT DEATH

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The Centre has decided to grant a 60-day special maternity leave for women Central government employees in case of stillbirth or death of an infant within a few days of birth, an order by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Friday said.

The DOPT said it had received several queries seeking clarification on grant of leave in case of death of a child soon after birth.

“The matter has been considered in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Keeping in view the potential emotional trauma caused due to stillbirth or death of a child soon after birth, which has a far-reaching impact on the mother’s life, it has now been decided to grant a special maternity leave of 60 days to a female Central government servant,” the order said.

“The condition for death of a child soon after birth may be defined as up to 28 days after birth. A baby born with no signs of life at or after 28 weeks of gestation may be defined as stillbirth,” the order said.

The special maternity leave shall be given only to a woman Central government servant with less than two surviving children, the order said.

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