

Following a birth or death there is a period of contamination for the relatives of the person born or deceased, the length of which depends upon the closeness of the relation, caste and age of the deceased. With the death or birth of a close relative a brahmana has ten days of asauca, a kshatriya twelve days, a vaishya fifteen days and a sudra thirty days. If the relation is distant the brahmana will have three days asaucam.

If a child of brahmana dies within ten days of birth, impurity is observed for ten days after the birth by the father and mother only. If the child dies within two years, asauca is one day.

If the child dies before six years and three months, the asauca is three days for close relatives.

During the period of contamination, one should not study scripture, or perform homa, Deity worship, tarpana, entertain guests etc. If one must perform Deity worship, they may do worship by manasa puja. However, if one has made a vow to perform worship of the Lord for his whole life, he should not break this vow, but should continue the puja (but if some arrangement can be made that is nice).

Those performing sacrifice, students and realized souls, or one who has performed funeral rites for a sannyasi does not observe asauca.

"One should not enter the temple in a contaminated state. (According to Vedic scripture, if someone dies in the family the whole family becomes contaminated for some time, according to its status. For example, if the family is brahmana their contamination period is twelve days, for kshatriyas and vaishyas it is fifteen days, and for shudras thirty days.)

Srila A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabupada. Nectar of Devotion, page 69. -  
Offences to be avoided.