

TITLE O P E R A T I O N S M A N U A L	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 06		DEPARTMENT F I R E - R E S C U E
SUBJECT: STATION MANAGEMENT SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY PROGRAM	SECTION 21	PAGE 2 of 2	EFFECTIVE DATE 14 July 2021

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide operating procedures and guidelines that shall be used by personnel when accepting a newborn under the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law.

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all sworn San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) personnel, except lifeguards.

III. AUTHORITY

The fire chief authorizes the information within this policy.

IV. BACKGROUND

California’s Safely Surrendered Baby Law, Section 1255.7 of the California Health and Safety Code, and Section 271.5 of the California Penal Code allows parents to confidentially give up their baby, 72 hours old or younger. Parents may give up their newborn without fear of arrest or prosecution, providing the baby has not been abused or neglected.

- A. The law guarantees confidentiality to the surrendering parent or individual who has lawful custody of the child (‘surrendering adult’).
 - 1. A surrendering adult who safely surrenders a baby does not have to give their name.
 - 2. If a surrendering adult chooses to give their name or other identifying information, only individuals who need to know the identity and whereabouts of a surrendering adult will have access to such information, thus guaranteeing confidentiality.

- B. The law allows the surrendering adult with legal custody to bring the baby to a Safe Surrender site.
 - 1. The law does not allow the surrendering adult to leave their newborn at the entrance of a Safe Surrender site.
 - 2. To ensure the safety of the newborn, the surrendering adult must give the baby to an employee at the Safe Surrender site.

V. PROCEDURE

In the event the surrendering adult decides to safely surrender a baby at any SDFD fire station the company officer shall ensure the following procedures are followed:

- A. Welcome the surrendering adult.
 - 1. Do not be judgmental as this is an emotional and difficult time.
 - 2. Encourage them to remain and complete the parental portion of the Newborn Safe Surrender Kit

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- B. Accept the infant (even if it appears older than 72 hours) and begin to assess for any medical needs.
- C. If there appears to be any suspicion of child abuse, contact law enforcement immediately.
- D. Notify the Metro Zone Emergency Command and Data Center (ECDC) and request an ALS unit.
 - 1. Do not voice “safe surrender” over the radio or overhead page.
- E. Initiate an EMS electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) for the infant.
- F. Complete the Newborn Safe Surrender Kit.
 - 1. Give the surrendering adult the enclosed business reply mail envelope containing the Safe Haven medical questionnaire, the information sheet, and a copy of the coded, confidential bracelet.
- G. Place the smaller coded, confidential ankle bracelet on the infant and record the code on the ePCR.
- H. Once on scene, EMS personnel shall assume custody of the baby, initiate base hospital contact, and continue to assess and provide for any medical needs of the baby.
- I. The company officer shall contact their respective battalion chief, San Diego County Health and Human Services, and Child Welfare Services by phone to report a safe surrender.
- J. ECDC shall notify the shift commander, the respective battalion chief, and the public relations officer of the safe surrender incident.