



Procedures for Accepting a Newborn Under the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law

To: All Safely Surrendered Baby Sites:

Thank you for your continued participation as a Safely Surrendered Baby (SSB) site. The intent of the SSB Law (SB 1368) is to encourage parents, who might otherwise abandon their infants in unsafe places, to bring their newborns to a safe place instead. The law requires all California hospitals with emergency departments and other designated locations to accept safely surrendered infants. In Contra Costa Safely Surrendered Sites include hospitals, fire stations, County clinics, and Kaiser medical offices. Only designated Safely Surrendered Sites can accept physical custody of infants (up to 72 hours old) who are voluntarily surrendered by a parent or other person with legal custody. No questions will be asked and the person who surrenders an infant in accordance with this new law is granted immunity from criminal liability for child abandonment. This person may reclaim the surrendered infant within 14 days.

The following is the protocol for accepting a newborn under the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law:

1. Welcome the parent or person surrendering the infant. Do not be judgmental (this is an emotional and difficult time for the person).
2. Accept the infant (even if it appears older than 72 hours) and begin to assess for any medical needs.
3. Initiate a medical report of the infant. (Fire Stations: Notify Communications Center and arrange for Code 2 ambulance). **If you are at a Contra Costa Health Clinic or Kaiser Medical Office, then you will need to call 911 to arrange emergency medical transport to a hospital emergency department.**
4. Locate and open the Newborn Safe Surrender Kit. Place a coded, confidential ankle bracelet on the infant and ensure the code on the face of the Newborn Surrender Kit envelope matches the both bracelets. Hand the surrendering person the matching coded bracelet and the two inner envelopes. One envelope contains the medical questionnaire and the other envelope has resources and rights information for the person surrendering the infant.
5. Once on scene, EMS ambulance personnel shall assume custody of the infant and continue to assess and provide for any medical needs of the infant.
6. EMS ambulance personnel shall accompany the infant to the receiving hospital and transfer custody to a designated hospital employee.¹ The receiving hospital will take custody of the infant and make phone notification with Children and Family Services (CFS).
7. **Receiving Personnel at Hospitals:** Notify CFS by faxing a copy of the notes on the face of the surrender kit. The CFS fax number is (925) 608-6894 or 925-608-6895. (Send completed notes on face of surrender kit envelope with infant for Child Protective Services' permanent file.)

Please use the following websites for information on Safe Surrender:

- Contra Costa Health Services Safely Surrendered Baby Law website at http://www.cchealth.org/topics/baby_safe
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS) website for the Safely Surrendered Baby Law at <http://www.babysafe.ca.gov>. Safely Surrender outreach materials in English and Spanish are available for public education activities supporting this program.

Please review the protocol contained in this memo for accepting a Safely Surrendered baby and to share this information with your staff. For additional Newborn Safe Surrender kits or more information, please contact **Family, Maternal and Child Health (FMCH) Programs at 925-313-6254**. Thank you for helping provide a safe alternative for parents who are unable or unwilling to keep their babies.

¹ The requirement for Fire paramedics to accompany the infant is a Fire Agency requirement. Consult your internal Fire Agency policies and procedures.