

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

FIELD POLICIES

Effective: July 1, 2008

Reviewed: July 1, 2018

Revised: July 2012, 2016

Scope: BLS and ALS Personnel



EMS Agency Medical Director

SAFELY SURRENDERED BABIES

AUTHORITY:

California Health and Safety Code, Section 1798., Section 1797.220., and Section 1255.7.; California Penal Code 271.5; Senate Bill 1368, Chapter 824; and El Dorado County Board of Supervisor Resolution 340-2005.

PURPOSE:

This policy outlines the procedures whereby prehospital care personnel accept a newborn under the California Safe Haven Law. This law as amended allows a person to surrender a minor child, less than 72 hours old to a person at any *designated* fire station, or emergency room without fear of arrest or prosecution, provided that the infant has not been abused or neglected. According to the law, "no person or entity that accepts a surrendered child shall be subject to civil, criminal, or administrative liability for accepting the child and caring for the child in the good faith belief that action is required or authorized by the bill, including but not limited to instances where the child is older than 72 hours or the person surrendering the child did not have lawful physical custody of the child".

POLICY:

1. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel shall follow the procedures outlined in this document to ensure the surrendered infant is protected and medically cared for until delivered to the closest hospital emergency department.
2. When an infant is surrendered to a fire station, the personnel shall notify their dispatch center of the situation. The dispatch center will dispatch the closest paramedic transport unit.
3. Fire station personnel will assess the newborn and treat as needed. Initiate a first responder PCR.
4. Open the Newborn Safe Surrender Kit, (available at the fire station).
5. Place a confidential coded bracelet on the infant's ankle and wrist. Record number on the PCR.
6. Provide the surrendering party the inner business reply mail envelope. This contains the Safe Haven medical questionnaire (English and Spanish version), an information sheet and a matching coded, confidential bracelet. Advise the surrendering party that provided that there has been no abuse or neglect, the parent may reclaim the infant within **14 days**, by taking the bracelet back to the hospital. Hospital personnel will provide information about the baby.
7. Upon arrival of the transport paramedic unit, the fire station personnel will provide a copy of the written report and a verbal report of the infants' care and status.
8. If the infant appears to be greater than 72 hours old, abused or neglected, accept the infant and provide medical treatment as necessary.
9. The paramedic transport unit will continue care and treat the infant as needed, initiate base station contact and begin transport to the closest appropriate hospital emergency department.
10. The paramedic transport unit will complete a PCR and record the confidential coded ankle bracelet number.
11. The paramedic transport unit will complete a Confidential EMS Event Analysis Form and submit it to the EMS Medical Director within 24 hours.
12. Receiving hospital personnel will make verbal and written notification to the El Dorado County Department of Child Protective Services.

