

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BABY?

The baby will be examined and given medical treatment, if needed. The baby will be transported to the nearest emergency department and placed in a foster or pre-adoptive home by Children & Family Services.



## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PARENTS?

Parents who safely surrender their baby may leave the hospital emergency room or other designated site without fear of arrest or prosecution for child abandonment.

Their identity will remain confidential and they will have the comfort of knowing their baby will remain in safe hands.

If during the cooling-off period the parents decide that they want to reclaim the baby, they can take the identifying bracelet back to the hospital, where staff will provide information about the baby.

## WHAT DO PARENTS NEED TO DO TO SAFELY SURRENDER THEIR INFANT?

Parents must go to any designated Safely Surrender Site and surrender their infant to personnel at that site.

They cannot leave the infant at the entrance of the site or at an unattended Safely Surrender Site, e.g. County clinic after hours or fire station that is vacant.

They need to inform Safely Surrender Site personnel of their wish to surrender their infant. Safely Surrender Site personnel will then accept custody of the child using the approved protocol described in this brochure.

blame  
**No** names  
shame

*Training materials are available at  
[www.cchealth.org/topics/baby\\_safe](http://www.cchealth.org/topics/baby_safe)*

Contra Costa County  
**Children & Family Services**  
A Bureau of the Employment and Human Services Department



This brochure was produced by Contra Costa Health Services' Emergency Medical Services Division and Family, Maternal and Child Health Programs, and Employment and Human Services' Children and Family Services.

What you need to know about

## Contra Costa County's Safely Surrendered Baby Program



## INFORMATION FOR PRE-HOSPITAL AND SAFELY SURRENDER SITE PERSONNEL

August 2017

## CALIFORNIA'S SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY LAW (SB1368)

The Safely Surrendered Baby Law was created to encourage parents who might otherwise abandon their infants in unsafe places to bring their newborns to a safe place.



SB 1368 was first passed in January 2001 and was permanently extended in January 2006

The law requires all California Emergency Departments and other designated sites, such as fire stations, to accept safely surrendered infants.

Only designated Safely Surrendered Sites can accept physical custody of infants (up to 72-hours old) who are voluntarily surrendered by a parent or person with legal custody.

No questions will be asked and the person who surrenders an infant in accordance with this law is granted immunity from criminal liability for child abandonment. This person may reclaim the surrendered infant within 14 days if they change their mind.

### WHERE ARE SAFELY SURRENDERED SITES LOCATED IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY?

In Contra Costa County, Safely Surrendered Sites include hospitals, fire stations, County Health Centers and Kaiser medical offices. A complete list of sites can be found at [www.cchealth.org/topics/baby\\_safe](http://www.cchealth.org/topics/baby_safe)

### WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL FOR ACCEPTING A SAFELY SURRENDERED NEWBORN?

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. **Locate and open the Newborn Safe Surrender Kit.** Place a coded, confidential ankle bracelet on the infant and record the code on the face of the Newborn Surrender Kit envelope. Hand the surrendering person the matching coded bracelet and the two inner envelopes. One envelope contains the medical questionnaire with another coded bracelet stapled to it, and the other envelope has resources and rights information for the person surrendering the infant.
4. Initiate a medical report of the infant, as dictated by your agency's internal policies and procedures (P/P) of the infant and arrange for transport to the nearest Emergency Department (ED)
  - a. **Fire Stations:** Notify Communications Center and arrange for Code 2 ambulance.
  - b. **Health Centers/Medical Offices:** Call 911 and request a Code 2 ambulance to transport a safely surrendered infant to the nearest ED. Consult your internal P/P regarding appropriate transport of the infant if located in the same building as the emergency department.

5. Complete the "Notes" section on face of Newborn Surrender Kit envelope. **The envelope must accompany the infant to the hospital.** It will become part of the infant's Children & Family Services (CFS) permanent file after the infant is transferred into their custody.
6. Upon arrival, 911 ambulance personnel shall assume custody of the infant, collect the Notes envelope and continue to assess and provide for any medical needs of the infant.
7. Ambulance personnel shall accompany the infant to the receiving hospital and transfer custody and the Notes envelope to emergency department personnel. The requirement for fire paramedics to accompany the infant is a Fire Agency requirement. Consult your internal P/P. The receiving hospital will then notify CFS and the local police by phone.
8. **SSB Site Personnel at Hospitals:** However a safely surrendered infant arrives, receiving hospital personnel are responsible for making the proper notifications.
  - a. If a safely surrendered infant is brought to the hospital by the parent(s) or they surrender the infant after hospital delivery, complete steps 1-4 and step 6 of this protocol and follow internal SSB site intake procedures.
  - b. Take custody of the infant and **immediately** notify (CFS) and the local police by phone. Local police notification is required in Contra Costa to facilitate transfer of custody to CFS. Fax the completed Notes on the face of the surrender kit to CFS.
  - c. The CFS Screening Hotline number is 877-881-1116 and fax number is 925-608-6895.

### WHAT IS IN THE NEWBORN SAFE SURRENDER KITS?

- Procedures for accepting a newborn under California's Safely Surrendered Baby Law.
- Coded ankle identification bracelets for the newborn.
- Coded wrist identification bracelet for the person surrendering the infant and a postage paid envelope containing newborn and medical questionnaires (English and Spanish) and information on resources and rights.
- Clamp for umbilical cord.

These kits are not needed very often and each Safely Surrender Site is responsible for keeping them in a safe place. For more kits, contact Contra Costa Health Services' Family, Maternal and Child Health Programs at 925-313-6254.