

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

FIELD POLICIES

916

Effective: July 1, 2008
Last Revised: August 2024
Scope: BLS/ALS

(on file)

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:

To establish the manner by which EMS personnel may accept a surrendered newborn under the California Safe Haven Law, which allows a person to surrender a minor child, less than 72 hours old to a person at any designated fire station, or emergency department without fear of arrest or prosecution, provided that the infant has not been abused or neglected.

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 and initiate documentation (ePCR).
4. Open the Newborn Safe Surrender Kit, (available at the fire station).
5. Place a confidential coded bracelet on the infant's ankle. Record number on the ePCR.
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.
7. Advise the surrendering party that the parent may reclaim the infant by presenting the bracelet to the hospital or Child Protective Services within **14 days** of surrender, provided there is/was no evidence of abuse or neglect.
8. Upon arrival of the transport paramedic unit, the fire station personnel will provide a verbal report of the infants' care and status, and complete the patient transfer per field transfer policy.
9. The paramedic transport unit will continue care and treat the infant as needed, initiate base station contact and transport to the closest appropriate hospital emergency department.
10. All providers will ensure their care is documented on an ePCR and will include the confidential coded ankle bracelet number.
11. The paramedic transport unit will complete an Event Report Form and submit it to the EMS Agency within 24 hours.