



Safely Surrendered Baby Procedure For Fire Stations

APPROVED:



EMS Medical Director



Interim EMS Administrator

1. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has designated all local fire stations, except those stations staffed by volunteers (La Honda, Kings Mountain, and Loma Mar), as "safe-surrendered sites" for babies in accordance with Health & Safety Code Section 1255.7.
2. Each designated fire station shall display the official State Department of Social Services sign.
3. Each fire station will keep on hand at least a dozen Safe Haven brochures explaining how to reclaim a surrendered newborn within the allowed 14-day period. These brochures can be obtained from San Mateo County Human Services Agency.
4. Safe Haven packets can be obtained from the San Mateo County Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Authority (JPA). The packets will contain:
 - 4.1 The written procedure for accepting the newborn.
 - 4.2 One smaller coded ankle identification bracelet for the newborn
 - 4.3 One larger coded identification bracelet for the adult who is surrendering the newborn.
 - 4.4 Safe Haven newborn medical questionnaires, one in English and one in Spanish.
 - 4.5 Safe Haven fact sheets, one in English and one in Spanish.
5. Each fire station will keep on hand at least five (5) Newborn Safe Surrender Packets. Each fire engine will also keep one (1) packet on board in the event they are on a "move up" to another fire station.
6. Procedure for accepting infant:
 - 6.1 Welcome the person surrendering the infant. Do not be judgmental (this is an emotional and difficult time for the person).

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- 6.2 Assess infant for immediate medical needs and treat per San Mateo County EMS protocol. If the infant appears to have an urgent medical condition contact Public Safety Dispatch immediately for a 911 ambulance response. Do not delay treating the infant in order to complete the next “accepting” steps. Proceed to 6.3, and 6.4., when it is medically safe to do so.
- 6.3 Place the smaller coded ankle bracelet on the infant and record the code on a prehospital patient care record.
- 6.4 Give the surrendering person the:
 - 6.4.1 larger coded identification bracelet
 - 6.4.2 postage prepaid envelope
 - 6.4.3 Safe Haven newborn medical questionnaire
 - 6.4.4 Safe Haven fact sheet
- 6.5 If the surrendering person seems willing, assist her/him with completing the medical questionnaire at the station. Give the completed questionnaire to the transporting ambulance crew to be taken to the hospital with the infant.
7. Contact Public Safety Communications and request a 911 ambulance to respond to your location.
8. Notify San Mateo County Child Protective Services (CPS) at (800) 632-4615 or 595-7922. Describe any evidence of abuse.
9. The ambulance crew will transport the infant to the closest hospital for medical clearance. The ambulance crew will notify the fire service paramedic that accepted the infant of the receiving hospital.
10. Fire service personnel will notify the Battalion Chief and the JPA zone coordinator as soon as possible.
11. The JPA zone coordinator will notify EMS on-call.
12. In the event that the adult returns to the Fire Station to reclaim the child, fire service personnel will call CPS and provide the adult with an informational brochure from CPS about how to reclaim the child within the allowed 14-day period.