



## **PROCEDURES FOR ACCEPTING A NEWBORN SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY PROGRAM**

The Safely Surrendered Baby program law (California Health and Safety Code, section 1255.7) provides a safe alternative for the surrender of a newborn baby in specified circumstances. A surrendering individual with lawful custody can safely surrender a baby confidentially and without fear of prosecution within 72 hours of birth.

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.

### **PROCEDURES**

1. Welcome the parent or person surrendering the infant.
2. Do not be judgmental (this is an emotional and difficult time for the person).
3. Accept the infant, even if it appears older than 72 hours.
4. **Locate and open the Safe Surrender Kit.** Place the coded, confidential ankle bracelet on the infant and provide, or make a good faith effort to provide, the matching bracelet to the surrendering person. Inform the surrendering person that she or he has 14 days to reclaim the baby and that the bracelet will help them reconnect with the baby in case they change their mind and wish to reclaim.
5. Provide, or make a good faith effort to provide the surrendering person the medical questionnaire and the fact sheet. The questionnaire may be voluntarily filled out and returned at the time the child is surrendered or may be completed later and mailed in the envelope provided for this purpose. *For more information regarding the medical questionnaire, review the Free Safe Surrender Kits info at [www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/safely-surrendered-baby](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/safely-surrendered-baby).*
6. Initiate a medical report of the infant by contacting emergency services and request local paramedics to arrange for transport to the nearest Emergency Department.
7. Upon arrival, emergency ambulance personnel shall assume custody of the infant, collect the Safe Surrender Kit envelope and continue to assess and provide for any medical needs of the infant.
8. Ambulance personnel shall accompany the infant to the receiving hospital and transfer custody and the Safe Surrender Kit envelope to emergency department personnel.
9. The receiving hospital will then notify Child Welfare and the local police by phone.

**SSB Site Personnel at Hospitals:** When a safely surrendered infant arrives, the receiving hospital personnel are responsible for making the proper notifications.

- a. If a surrendering individual surrenders an infant after hospital delivery complete steps 1-5 and,
- b. Take custody of the infant and immediately notify Children & Family Services and the local police by phone.

For more information regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Kit materials, or the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, please contact the Baby Safe hotline at 1.877.BABY.SAF (1-877-222-9723) or the Office of Child Abuse Prevention at (916) 651-6160.