

**Chapter: COUNTY Of SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol**

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**SUBJECT:** Infant Safe Surrender

**POLICY NO:** S-022

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**DATE:** July 1, 2019

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**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2, Section 1255.7, and Division 2.5, Section 1798; and Penal Code, Section 271.5.

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**I. PURPOSE**

To describe guidelines for steps to be followed when an individual surrenders an infant appearing to be less than 72 hours old, under the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law of 2001, to County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) staff at a San Diego County Fire Station that is staffed 24 hours per day.

**II. POLICY**

CoSD EMS Personnel will accept infants brought to them with the intent of surrendering the child. The infant should be accepted for surrender even if the child's age is suspected to exceed 72 hours.

- A.** CoSD EMS Personnel should follow their own departmental policies when an infant is surrendered to their care.
- B.** A "Newborn Safe Surrender Kit" shall be used, and a confidential infant ID bracelet shall be placed on the newborn's ankle, and the number code from the bracelet recorded on the infant's Prehospital Patient Report (PPR).
- C.** CoSD EMS Personnel will perform a rapid assessment of the infant to identify immediate medical needs, and this assessment will be documented on the infant's PPR. If there is any suspicion of child abuse, law enforcement should be contacted immediately.

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- D.** CoSD EMS Personnel shall offer care to the mother if she is the caretaker surrendering the infant. Documentation of the mother's assessment/care should be on a separate PPR, if provided.
  
- E.** The caregiver surrendering the infant should be encouraged to immediately complete the "Newborn Family Medical History Questionnaire". If necessary, CoSD EMS Personnel should assist the caregiver in completing the document. The caregiver may also fill out the questionnaire at a later time and return via mail.
  
- F.** The infant should then be transferred to the most appropriate Emergency Department as directed by the Base Hospital. A copy of the infant's PPR should be provided to hospital staff.
  
- G.** CoSD EMS Personnel must notify County of San Diego, Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services by phone (858-560-2191 or 800-344-6000) advising them of a surrendered infant incident, and must complete a Child Protective Services (CPS) report, submitted according to agency protocol.