

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



SPECIAL ORDER



2008.009

Originating From	Issue Date	Expiration Date	Attachments
Operations EMS	1/29/2008	N/A	N/A

SUBJECT: Newborn Infant Safe Haven Law

APPLICABILITY: All Personnel

On Wednesday January 23, 2008 Headquarters received an anonymous phone call inquiring about the Newborn Infant Safe Haven law and what would happen if one would drop off a baby to a firehouse. They also inquired if Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) had a policy on this issue.

Due to this not happening often in Howard County, DFRS is attempting to be proactive and give Operational members the knowledge of what to do if they are faced with this situation. Several critical measures are designed to positively impact the health of the infant. Parents, guardians, or other persons may surrender an unwanted infant (14 days old or younger) to a designated safe haven (Fire Station, Police Station, or hospital) without fear of prosecution.

- 1 In the event that such an infant is surrendered to our agency, the following actions shall be taken:
 - 1.1 Take the infant without question. Ensure the safety of the infant by accepting its custody.
 - 1.2 Perform a patient assessment and provide medical care including transportation to the nearest appropriate hospital.
 - 1.3 Pre-arrival notification to the receiving hospital is required.
 - 1.4 Under no circumstances should Department personnel attempt to physically prevent the parent, guardian, or other person from leaving the scene after surrendering an infant.**
 - 1.5 Notify the On-Duty Medical Duty Officer Battalion Chief, as well as the appropriate shift Battalion Chief.
 - 1.6 Notify Howard County Police via Communications (911 Dispatch Center).
 - 1.7 It is not necessary to wait for police at the station; they can rendezvous with DFRS units at the hospital.

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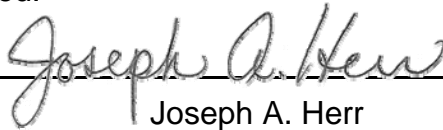
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- 1.8 Try to remember what the person said and quote them in the patient care report.
- 1.9 Personnel are encouraged to obtain a description of the surrendering adult and if appropriate, vehicle information for forwarding to the hospital, Child Protective Services, and/or law enforcement personnel.

Approved:



Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief