



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

G-1

For the meeting of: January 14, 2014

Date: December 23, 2014

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Rex Bohn and Supervisor Virginia Bass

Subject: Resolution Encouraging the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to Designate Humboldt Bay Fire and Arcata Fire Protection District Fire Stations as "Safe Surrender" Sites.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution # 1409 designating Humboldt Bay Fire and Arcata Fire Protection District as "Safe Surrender" sites.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The Safe Surrender Baby Law (SSB) (Senate Bill 1368) was implemented in California on January 1, 2001, in response to the increasing number of abandoned baby deaths in California, as reported by media accounts. The law is intended to spare the life of an infant by encouraging parents or persons with lawful custody to confidentially surrender an infant at a "safe surrender" site within 72 hours of the child's birth rather than abandoning them in an unsafe location. In October, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation (Senate Bill 116) extending the SSB Law permanently, effective January 1, 2006. The state program pays for public relations and outreach programs. So far, funding of the program has survived recent state budget cuts. From January 1, 2001 – March 31, 2011, about 407 babies had been safely surrendered around the state.

Signature Virginia Bass

Signature Rex Bohn

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

REVIEW:	Auditor _____	County Counsel _____	Personnel _____	Risk Manager _____	Other _____
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TYPE OF ITEM:

Consent

Departmental

Public Hearing

Other Board Initiated (15 min)

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Bass Seconded by Supervisor Fennell

Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Bohn, Fennell, Bass

Nays
Abstain
Absent

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Jan. 14, 2014

By: Kathy Hayes
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

Senate Bill 139 revised the provisions of SSB law to eliminate the requirement that the child be surrendered to a designated employee on duty in the emergency room of a hospital or location designated by the Board of Supervisors. The Bill would instead allow the surrender of the child to a safe-surrender site, as defined at a hospital or location designated for this purpose by a County Board of Supervisors. The Bill would also provide that certain information pertaining to the individual surrendering the child is confidential and would require safe-surrender sites to post signs, utilizing a statewide logo that has been adopted by the State Department of Social Services.

Summary of the SSB Law:

- Under the SSB law, a parent or person with lawful custody can safely surrender a baby confidentially and without fear of prosecution within 72 hours of birth.
- The SSB law requires the baby be taken to a public or private hospital, designated fire station or other safe surrender site. No questions will be asked and California Penal Code Section 271.5 protects surrendering individuals from prosecution of abandonment.
- The SSB law provides a safe alternative to desperate mothers who are unwilling or unable to keep their babies.
- Babies who are safely surrendered at a hospital are given medical treatment and placed in a foster home or pre-adoptive home. At the time of surrender, a bracelet is placed on the baby for identification purposes and a matching bracelet provided to the parent or lawful guardian in case the baby is reclaimed.
- A parent or person with lawful custody has up to 14 days from the time of surrender to reclaim their baby.
- Since 2008 all 50 states have implemented some form of safe-haven law.
- If a newborn baby is surrendered at the Fire Department, the fire personnel will immediately notify the Humboldt County Health and Human Services Child Welfare Services (CWS). Fire Department EMT's will perform a preliminary health screening and notify the closest ambulance transport provider so the infant can be transported by ambulance to the hospital for initial evaluation. Suggested procedures to be used by Fire Department for this program are attached. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors may designate fire departments as lawful Safe Surrender Sites. The Board of Supervisors will meet to approve this designation for Humboldt Bay Fire and Arcata Fire Protection District on January 14, 2014. For the purposes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting, staff recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopts the attached Resolution # _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Designating the Humboldt Bay Fire and Arcata Fire Protection District as Safe Surrender sites will not have significant financial impact on the County.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: Humboldt Bay Fire, Arcata Fire Protection District, local ambulance providers, St. Joseph and Mad River Hospitals, and notification of Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Child Welfare Services and Division of Public Health.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Humboldt Bay Fire and Arcata Fire Protection District Proposed Procedures for Accepting Newborn Infants under the California Safe Surrender Baby Law.
2. Proposed Resolution.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting on January 14, 2014

RESOLUTION #14-09

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE AND ARCATA FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE STATIONS AS SAFE SURRENDER SITES.**

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2001, SB 1368 took effect, enacting a law that provides for the health and safety of unwanted newborn children, also known as California's "Safe Surrendered Baby Law"; and

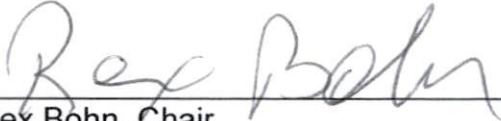
WHEREAS, as part of the Safe Surrendered Baby Law, Penal Code 271.5 allows an individual to confidentially surrender an unharmed newborn three days old or younger at any hospital emergency room or other designated safe haven site without fear of criminal prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has legislated all public and private emergency rooms as safe haven sites and designated the Board of Supervisors of a county to designate other safe surrender sites within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of residents residing within Humboldt County to designate Humboldt Bay Fire and Arcata Fire Protection District fire stations as additional safe surrender sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby agrees to designate Humboldt Bay Fire and Arcata Fire Protection District fire stations as Safe Surrender sites.

Dated: January 14, 2014



Rex Bohn, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting on January 14, 2014

RESOLUTION #14-09


Adopted on motion by Supervisor Bass, Seconded by Supervisor Fennell, and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors: Sundberg, Lovelace, Bohn, Fennell, Bass
NAYS: Supervisors: n/a
ABSENT: Supervisors: n/a
ABSTAIN: Supervisors: n/a

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, KATHY HAYES, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and affixed the
Seal of said Board of Supervisors.



KATHY HAYES

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California

RESOLUTION NO. 2013- 41

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EUREKA**

**Resolution Requesting the County of Humboldt Designate Humboldt Bay Fire
Stations as Safe Surrender Sites**

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2001, SB 1368 took effect, enacting a law that provides for the health and safety of unwanted newborn children, also known as California's "Safely Surrendered Baby law"; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Safety Surrendered Baby law, Penal Code 271.5 allows an individual to confidentially surrender an unharmed newborn three days old or younger at any hospital emergency room or other designated safe haven site without fear of criminal prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has legislated all public and private emergency rooms as safe haven sites and designated the Board of Supervisors of a county to designate other safe surrender sites within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of residents residing within the City of Eureka to designate Humboldt Bay Fire stations as additional safe surrender sites

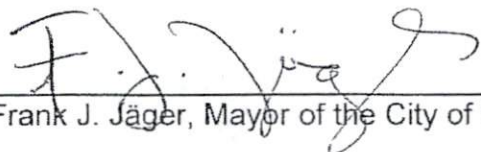
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eureka, that the Council agrees to request the County of Humboldt Designate Humboldt Bay Fire Stations as Safe Surrender Sites

RESOLUTION NO. 2013- 41

Page 2

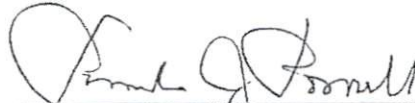
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Eureka in the County of Humboldt, State of California, on the 5th day of November, 2013 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS BRADY, ATKINS, NEWMAN, CIARABELLINI,
MADSEN
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS



Frank J. Jäger, Mayor of the City of Eureka

Attest:




Pamela J. Powell, City Clerk

Approved as to Administration:

Approved as to form:



Michael Knight, Interim City Manager



Cyndy Day-Wilson, City Attorney

RESOLUTION 2013 - 4

RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Resolution Requesting the Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to Designate Humboldt Bay Fire Stations as Safe Surrender Sites

Whereas, on January 1, 2001, SB 1368 took effect, enacting a law that provides for the health and safety of unwanted newborn children, also known as California's "Safely Surrendered Baby law"; and

Whereas, as part of the Safety Surrendered Baby law, Penal Code 271.5 allows an individual to confidentially surrender an unharmed newborn three days old or younger at any hospital emergency room or other designated safe haven site without fear of criminal prosecution; and

Whereas, the State of California has legislated all public and private emergency rooms as safe haven sites and designated the Board of Supervisors of a county to designate other safe surrender sites within their jurisdiction; and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of residents residing within the City of Eureka and greater Humboldt Bay area to designate Humboldt Bay Fire stations as additional safe surrender sites

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority That the JPA board agrees to designate Humboldt Bay Fire stations as Safe Surrender sites

Adopted by the governing board 11/13/2013 with a roll call vote:

AYES: CiARBellini, Gath, Newman, Pauli

ABSTAIN: None


NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Attest:


Kathi Hendricks, Clerk

Approved:


Jeff Pauli, Chairman

RESOLUTION NO. 134-29

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA
SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT IN DESIGNATING THE ARCATA
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT'S STATIONS AS SAFE SURRENDER SITES**

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2001, SB 1368 took effect, enacting a law that provides for the health and safety of unwanted newborn children, also known as California's "Safely Surrendered Baby law"; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Safely Surrendered Baby law, Penal Code 271.5 allows an individual to confidentially surrender an unharmed newborn three days old or younger at any hospital emergency room or other designated safe haven site without fear of criminal prosecution; and

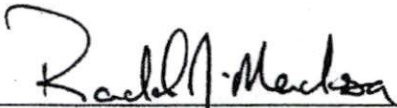
WHEREAS, the State of California has legislated all public and private emergency rooms as safe haven sites and designated the Board of Supervisors of a county to designate other safe surrender sites within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of residents residing within the City of Arcata and greater Humboldt Bay area to designate the Arcata Fire Protection District's stations as additional safe surrender sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arcata City Council hereby requests that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors designate the Arcata Fire Protection District's stations as Safe Surrender Sites.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



City Clerk, City of Arcata



Mayor, City of Arcata

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

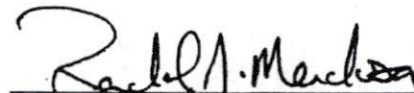
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of **Resolution No. 134-29** passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata, County of Humboldt, State of California, held on the 4th day of December, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: BRINTON, WHEETLEY, ORNELAS, STILLMAN, WINKLER

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTENTIONS: NONE



City Clerk, City of Arcata

RESOLUTION 13-143

RESOLUTION OF THE ARCATA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Resolution Requesting the County of Humboldt Designate Arcata Fire District Fire Stations as Safe Surrender Sites

Whereas, on January 1, 2001, SB 1368 took effect, enacting a law that provides for the health and safety of unwanted newborn children, also known as California's "Safely Surrendered Baby law"; and

Whereas, as part of the Safely Surrendered Baby law, Penal Code 271.5 allows an individual to confidentially surrender an unharmed newborn three days old or younger at any hospital emergency room or other designated safe haven site without fear of criminal prosecution; and

Whereas, the State of California has legislated all public and private emergency rooms as safe haven sites and designated the Board of Supervisors of a county to designate other safe surrender sites within their jurisdiction; and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of residents residing within the Arcata Fire District area to designate Arcata Fire District stations as additional safe surrender sites

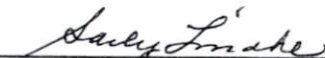
Now therefore, be it resolved by the Arcata Fire Protection District that the board agrees to request the County of Humboldt designate Arcata Fire District stations as Safe Surrender sites

AYES: Steve Tyler, Annie Lindstrom, John Davis
NOES: -
ABSTAIN: -
ABSENT: Larry Mendez, Elena David

Approved:


John Davis, Chairman

Attest:


Sally Lindke, Clerk



Humboldt Bay Fire POLICY AND PROCEDURES

SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY PROGRAM

Volume:
Chapter:
Subject
Code:

.01 POLICY OBJECTIVES

Provide guidance for handling incidents where a person(s) wish to surrender an infant under 72 hours old to HBF personnel.

.02 ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY

All Personnel

.03 APPLICABILITY

The California Safely Surrendered Baby Law, as amended, allows a parent or other individual having lawful custody of a child (72 hours or younger) to voluntarily surrender physical custody of the child to any firefighter on duty at any of our fire stations. Under certain circumstances, they may do so discretely without fear of being prosecuted for child abandonment.

.04 DEFINITIONS

Newborn Safe Surrender Kit	A kit provided to all HBF fire stations, used to identify, track, and seek medical information on a safely surrendered baby. Contents consist of coded medical identification bracelets, an information sheet and a medical questionnaire.
Safe Haven Site	Humboldt Bay Fire's stations have been designated as drop-off sites for a "safely surrendered baby."
Safely Surrendered Baby	An infant under 72 hours old that has been safely surrendered by a custodial parent at a Safe Haven Site is considered a safely surrendered baby.

.05 PROCEDURE

- I. Welcome the parent/guardian surrendering the infant. Do not be judgmental (this is an emotional and difficult time for the person).
- II. Ascertain that the infant is under 72 hours or younger. Accept the infant even if the infant appears older than 72 hours) and begin to assess for any medical needs.
- III. Notify dispatch via phone of a still alarm at the station and request an ambulance to respond. Initiate an EMS call on the infant. Place the engine company in an "out of service" status until custody of the infant has been transferred.
- IV. Notify the shift Battalion Chief.
- V. Locate and open the Newborn Safe Surrender Kit.
 - A. Place the smaller coded confidential ankle bracelet on the infant.
 1. Write the bracelet code on the top of the "SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY" Medical Questionnaire
 2. Record the bracelet code in your Firehouse incident report narrative.
 - B. Hand the parent/guardian the matching coded confidential bracelet.
 - C. Advise the parent/guardian they may reclaim custody of the infant within 14 days of the surrender of custody by means of the coded identification bracelet they have just received.
 - D. The parent/guardian is given the "SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY" Medical Questionnaire (Appendix B) and offered assistance in completing it. This is a voluntary document and can be declined.
 - E. If the parent/guardian is reluctant to fill out the questionnaire, they are offered a stamped addressed envelope to mail to the hospital at a later time (addressed to the Hospital Custodian of Medical Records).
- VI. Once on scene, ambulance personnel shall assume custody of the infant, initiate base hospital contact, and continue to assess and provide for any needs of the infant. Custody will be transferred to the receiving hospital.
- VII. Notification of Child Protective Services

- a. As soon as possible, but in no event later than 48 hours after taking custody of a child, Child Welfare Services (CWS) shall be notified of the surrendered infant both by verbal phoned report and written Suspected Child Abuse Report. Refer to Appendix A for contact information.

.06 RELATED INFORMATION

Immunity from liability:

According to the law, "No person or entity that accepts a surrendered child shall be subject to civil, criminal, or administrative liability for accepting the child and caring for the child in good faith belief that action is required or authorized by the bill, including, but not limited to, instances where the child is older than 72 hours or the person surrendering the child did not have lawful physical custody of the child."

Requests to return the newborn:

If the relinquishing adult returns to the station before the infant has been transported to the Emergency Department, or if they should change their mind during the relinquishment, the infant should be returned. If child abuse is suspected, return the newborn and immediately notify law enforcement. Procedures for mandated reporting of child abuse still apply.

.07 REFERENCES

- I. California Department of Social Services website:
<http://www.babysafe.ca.gov/>
- II. California SB 1368: child abandonment: newborns
- III. California AB 1048: child protection: safe surrender

.08 APPENDICES

A. *Child Welfare Services*

*Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, Social Services Branch
929 Koster Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707)445-6180*

B. "SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY" Medical Questionnaire

.09 MONITORING AND REVIEW

Policy to be reviewed every three years

Drafted by: Chris Jelinek, Battalion Chief

Revised:

Approved by:

Ken Woods

Ken Woods, Fire Chief
Humboldt Bay Fire

**"SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY"
Medical Questionnaire**

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO GIVE THIS BABY A SAFE AND SECURE FUTURE

NOTICE: THE BABY YOU HAVE BROUGHT IN TODAY MAY HAVE SERIOUS MEDICAL NEEDS IN THE FUTURE THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT TODAY. SOME ILLNESSES, INCLUDING CANCER, ARE BEST TREATED WHEN WE KNOW ABOUT FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORIES. IN ADDITION, SOMETIMES RELATIVES ARE NEEDED FOR LIFE-SAVING TREATMENTS. TO MAKE SURE THIS BABY WILL HAVE A HEALTHY FUTURE, YOUR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE FULLY IS ESSENTIAL. THANK YOU.

Please remember that these questions will allow us to provide the best supportive care possible to the baby. If you need help answering any of the questions, please ask. If you are uncomfortable answering any of the questions, skip them and answer the rest. Any information you provide will benefit the baby.

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY TO HELP CARE FOR THE BABY.

1. What were the date, time and place of the baby's birth?
Date: _____ Time: _____ a.m. p.m. Place: _____
2. Was the baby born early (premature)? _____ Late? _____ Unknown Due Date? _____
3. Did the baby have any trouble starting to breathe? Yes No
4. Has the baby been breast fed? Yes No
If yes, how long? _____ When was the baby last fed? _____ a.m. p.m.
5. Has the baby been fed formula? Yes No
If yes, how long? _____ When was the baby last fed? _____ a.m. p.m.
6. Did the birth mother see a doctor during pregnancy? Yes No
If yes, when did she first see the doctor? _____
How many times did she see the doctor during pregnancy? _____
7. Was the birth attended by a physician, midwife, nurse or other health care professional? Yes No
8. Has a doctor seen the baby since birth? Yes No
If yes, when? _____
9. Did the birth mother smoke cigarettes during the pregnancy? Yes No
If yes, how often? _____
10. Did the birth mother drink alcohol during the pregnancy? Yes No
If yes, how often? _____
11. Did the birth mother take over the counter or prescription medication during the pregnancy? Yes No
If yes, what type? _____ How often? _____
12. Did the birth mother take recreational or "street" drugs during the pregnancy? Yes No
If yes, what type? _____ How often? _____
13. Has the birth mother been pregnant before? Yes No
If yes, how many times? _____
Were there any problems with any of those pregnancies or births? Yes No
Please explain _____
14. Race/ethnicity of the baby's parents: Mother _____ Father _____
15. Does the baby have any Native American ancestry? Unknown Yes No
If yes, what is the name of the tribe? _____ From what state? _____

Please tell us if the birth mother, birth father, or any of their relatives had or now have any of the medical conditions listed below.

TYPE OF ILLNESS	RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHILD (Mother, Father, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle) Please state if relative is mother's or father's	AGE ILLNESS BEGAN
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV or AIDS	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexually Transmitted Disease What kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cancer What kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Illness What kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cystic Fibrosis	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kidney Problems What kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing, vision, or speech problems What kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sickle Cell Disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning delay/special education	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Allergies What kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis What kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other What kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's <input type="checkbox"/> Father's	

Please provide any additional information that might help us provide the baby with the best health care now or in the future. (You may use an additional page)

Arcata Fire Protection District
Fire Policy Manual

Safely Surrendered Baby Law

F 336.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the guidelines to comply with the Safely Surrendered Baby (SSB) Law (Health and Safety Code § 1255.7).

This policy addresses infants who are less than 72 hours old and are surrendered under the terms of the SSB Law pursuant to Penal Code § 271.5 and Health and Safety Code § 1255.7. This policy does not address illegal desertion or abandonment of a infant as defined in Penal Code § 271. For an abandoned infant, see the Abandoned Children Policy.

F 336.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Coded identification bracelets - Two small coded bracelets to be placed on the ankles of the surrendered infant and one large coded bracelet provided to the person surrendering the infant.

Medical questionnaire - The SSB Law requires that a medical questionnaire be offered to the person surrendering the infant for the purpose of collecting medical information critical to the health and survival of the infant.

Safe-surrender site - Any district facility designated by the local governing body (Health and Safety Code § 1255.7).

F 336.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Arcata Fire Protection District to provide an option to protect infants by allowing parents or persons with lawful custody to safely and confidentially surrender infants at any fire station that has been designated as a safe-surrender site (Health and Safety Code § 1255.7).

F 336.3 PROCEDURE

The Fire Chief identifies all full-time safety and administrative employees are qualified to take custody of surrendered infants and ensure that such qualified personnel are available to receive any surrendered infants (Health and Safety Code § 1255.7).

The Operations Assistant Chief shall ensure that district facilities designated as safe-surrender sites display the California state-approved Infant Safe logo.

The following procedures will be used by personnel at all district facilities that have been designated as safe-surrender sites (Health and Safety Code § 1255.7).

(a) Site preparation:

1. All district facilities designated as safe-surrender sites will display the California state-approved Infant Safe logo near the front door, if possible adjacent to a 9-1-1 call box. In

addition, fire station lobbies should display public outreach brochures obtained from the state or the local child welfare agency.

2. At each safe-surrender site, the Medical Equipment Coordinator shall be responsible to order, maintain and inventory, on a monthly basis, Safe Surrender Kits that contain coded identification bracelets, the medical information questionnaire and a Fact Sheet regarding the SSB Law.

3. At each safe-surrender site, the Medical Equipment Coordinator shall be responsible for maintaining any donated blankets and maintaining current contact information for the local child welfare agency.

(b) Accepting a surrendered infant:

1. Qualified personnel shall accept a surrendered infant, even if the infant appears older than 72 hours. If the infant appears to be older than 72 hours, the receiving personnel should immediately notify law enforcement and the appropriate child welfare agency, as provided in the Abandoned Children Policy.

2. The receiving personnel shall notify the ECC, via the phone, of a "medical aid" at the station and request an ambulance and a paramedic unit, if one is not available in quarters. Avoid radio traffic declaring an "infant safe surrender," to maintain confidentiality.

3. If it appears that the infant has been the victim of child abuse or neglect, law enforcement personnel should be requested.

(c) Following acceptance of an infant:

1. Receiving personnel shall open a Safe Surrender Kit and place the small coded bracelets on the infant's ankles and make a good faith effort to give the large coded bracelet to the person surrendering the infant to facilitate reclaiming the infant. Write the bracelet code on the top of the "SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY" Medical Questionnaire

2. Receiving personnel shall make a good faith effort to provide a Fact Sheet from the kit to the surrendering person. The law requires that the medical questionnaire also be offered to the surrendering person. This is a voluntary document, however, and can be declined by the surrendering person.

3. The surrendering person should be encouraged to accompany the infant to the hospital to give the medical history directly to the hospital staff and to be reassured that the same protection from prosecution and the ability to surrender the child is available at the hospital.

4. If the surrendering person does not wish to accompany the infant to the hospital, the surrendering person should be encouraged to complete the medical questionnaire and should be given assistance, if needed.

5. If the surrendering person is unwilling to complete the questionnaire and unwilling to accompany the infant to the hospital, personnel should make a good faith effort to provide the surrendering person the following items from the kit:

- (a) The business reply envelope containing the medical questionnaire, which can be filled out later and returned by mail.
- (b) The Fact Sheet
- (c) The surrendering person's copy of the coded bracelet
- (d) Medical assessment and documentation:

6. Advise the parent/guardian they may reclaim custody of the infant within 14 days of the surrender of custody by means of the coded identification bracelet they have just received.

(d) Medical assessment and documentation:

1. A qualified health care professional shall assess the infant to identify any immediate treatment needs and complete a Pre-Hospital Care Report for the infant. The bracelet code number shall be included on the infant's Firehouse RMS Report in the patient name field.
2. If the surrendering person is the birth mother, a qualified health care professional should attempt to assess and treat her as necessary and pursuant to established Emergency Medical Service (EMS) protocols. If treated, the mother should be listed as "Jane Doe" to protect her anonymity.
3. **DO NOT** use the parent's name on the Firehouse RMS Report (Health and Safety Code § 1255.7(d)2)).

(e) Transportation to the hospital:

Once on scene, ambulance personnel shall assume custody of the infant, initiate base hospital contact, and continue to assess and provide for any needs of the infant. Custody will be transferred to the receiving hospital.

3. As soon as possible, but in no event later than 48 hours after taking custody of a child, District personnel, shall notify Child Welfare Services (CWS) of the surrendered infant both by verbal phoned report and written Suspected Child Abuse Report. Refer to Appendix A for contact information.

(f) Additional notifications and media concerns:

1. The receiving personnel shall notify their appropriate supervisor as soon as practicable.
2. The supervisor will notify the Duty Chief.
3. The **Duty Chief** may, as circumstances dictate, provide the following limited facts to the media:

(a) Date, time and fire station where the infant was surrendered

(b) Local child welfare agency representative's name and telephone number

(c) Under no circumstances shall the surrendering person's name be released to the public or media (Health and Safety Code § 1255.7(k)).

(g) Individuals who return to claim an infant:

1. If a parent or individual who voluntarily surrendered an infant requests return of the infant while the District still has physical custody, the infant shall either be returned to the parent or individual or the receiving personnel should contact the local child welfare agency if any personnel at the safe-surrender site know or reasonably suspect that the child has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. The voluntary surrender of an infant is not in and of itself a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect. Possession of the ankle bracelet identification, in and of itself, does not establish a right to custody of the child and members may seek assistance from the child welfare agency.
2. If a parent or individual who voluntarily surrendered an infant requests return of the infant after the District has given up physical custody, the person should be directed to call the child welfare agency that has custody of the infant. District personnel should assist the person with the telephone call, as needed.
3. The ECC should be notified that the company is engaged in a "public assist" at the fire station.
4. The identity of the surrendering individual must still be kept anonymous and confidential.
5. Do not make any judgments about time frames or the individual's ability to care for the infant. The local child welfare agency will determine whether the infant is released to the individual.

(h) Community donations:

1. Community groups, volunteers, foundations and individuals may express interest in helping with this program. Some may want to donate baby supplies, such as baby food, diapers or blankets, directly to the fire station. The following guidelines are established:
 - (a) The only item a fire station may accept is a small, new baby blanket in the original wrapper. Donated blankets may be stored with the Safe Surrender Kits.
 - (b) Donors who wish to donate any other baby-related items, such as clothes, baby food or diapers, should be directed to a local social service agency and/or reputable charities.