

Safe Haven Newborn Law

311.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the guidelines to comply with the Arizona Safe Haven Newborn law.

This policy addresses infants who are 30 days old or younger and are surrendered under the Safe Haven Newborn law.

311.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (ARS § 13-3623.01):

Infant - A newborn infant who is 30 days old or younger.

Parent - The parent or an agent of the parent who surrenders a newborn infant and does not express an intent to return for the infant.

311.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to provide an option to protect infants by allowing a parent to safely and confidentially surrender an infant at any staffed fire station that has been designated as a safe-surrender site.

311.3 GUIDELINE

The Fire Chief shall identify qualified personnel to take custody of surrendered infants and ensure that such qualified personnel are available to receive any surrendered infants.

The following guidelines will be used by personnel at all district stations:

(a) Site preparation:

1. All district stations shall clearly display the appropriate safe haven signage identifying the station as a drop-off location (ARS § 13-3623.01).

(b) Accepting a surrendered infant:

- (a) Qualified personnel shall accept a surrendered infant, even if the infant appears older than 30 days. If the infant appears to be older than 30 days or a victim of child abuse or neglect, the receiving personnel should immediately notify law enforcement as provided in the Child Abuse Policy.
- (b) Surrendered infants 30 days or younger shall be transported to the hospital as soon as practicable (ARS § 8-528). Personnel should notify Dispatch of a medical aid at the station, and request an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance and/or a paramedic unit, if they are not available in quarters. Avoid radio traffic declaring a safe surrender to maintain confidentiality.

(c) Following acceptance of an infant:

1. A member shall contact the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) and advise that an infant has been surrendered at the Blue Ridge Fire District and provide the name and location of the hospital where the infant is being transported (ARS § 8-528).

Blue Ridge Fire District

Policy Manual

Safe Haven Newborn Law

2. If available, written information about safe haven for newborns and referral organizations should be provided to the parent of the infant.
 3. The parent should be encouraged to accompany the infant to the hospital to give medical history directly to the hospital staff and should be reassured that the same protection from prosecution and the ability to surrender the infant is available at the hospital.
 4. If the parent does not wish to accompany the infant to the hospital, the parent should be encouraged to provide medical history of the infant.
- (d) Medical assessment and documentation:
1. A qualified health care professional shall assess the infant to identify any immediate treatment needs and complete a Patient Care Report (PCR) for the incident.
 2. If the parent is the birth mother, a qualified health care professional should attempt to assess and treat her as necessary and pursuant to established Emergency Medical Services (EMS) protocols.
 - (a) Do not use the parent's name on the PCR.
- (e) Additional notifications and media concerns:
- (a) The receiving personnel shall notify Dispatch and their appropriate supervisor as soon as practicable.
 - (b) The supervisor will notify the Captain, the duty officer, and the District Fire Chief.
 - (c) The Fire 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 DCS representative's name and telephone number
 - (c) Under no circumstances shall the name of the parent be released to the public or media
- (f) Individuals who return to claim an infant:
- (a) If a parent who voluntarily surrendered an infant requests return of the infant, the parent should be referred to DCS.
 - (b) The identity of the parent must still be kept anonymous and confidential.
 - (c) District members should not make any judgments about the individual's ability to care for the infant. The local DCS will determine whether the infant is released to the individual.
- (g) Community donations:
- (a) 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:

Safe Haven Newborn Law

- (a) Only new baby blankets in the original wrapper should be accepted.
- (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.