

**East Lansing Police Department
Policy & Procedure**

Subject: SAFE DELIVERY OF NEWBORN INFANTS	ELPD Policy #: 400-18
Effective Date: January 1, 2021 Revised Date:	Distribution: All Employees
MACP Accreditation Standard : Safe delivery of newborn infants	MACP Standard: 4.5.7

I. PURPOSE

This directive establishes a procedure to provide parents of newborn infants an alternative to child abandonment.

II. POLICY

The East Lansing Police Department, working in conjunction with Emergency Service Providers and the Family Independence Agency, will provide a safe and anonymous avenue for parent(s) of newborn infants to surrender them. We are committed to the welfare of the newborn and will work within the guidelines set by the Safe Delivery Act (PA 232, 233 and 234 or 2000).

III. PROCEDURE

A. Definitions

1. Newborn

- a. A child who a physician reasonably believes to be not more than 72 hours old.

2. Emergency Service Provider

- a. A uniformed or otherwise identified employee or contractor of a fire department, hospital or police station when such an individual is inside the premises and on duty.

3. Surrender

- a. To leave a newborn with an emergency service provider without expressing an intent to return for the newborn.

B. Surrendering of Infant

- 1. Either or both parents that deliver a newborn must do so within the East Lansing Police Department building and to an identified on-

duty police officer. If contact is made in the field about how to surrender a child, inform them the three options, being a fire department, hospital, or police station.

- a. Assume that the child is a newborn.
 - b. Accept temporary protective custody; take action necessary to protect the health and safety of the newborn.
 - c. Request an EMS response to evaluate the newborn's medical condition.
 - d. Make a reasonable effort to inform the parent (either parent) that:
 - i. By surrendering the newborn, the newborn will be placed for adoption.
 - ii. That they will have 28 days to petition to regain custody.
- C. Parent identification is strictly voluntary. We cannot, by law, require the parent to identify themselves nor provide information about the child. However, make a reasonable attempt to:
1. Reassure that shared information will be kept confidential.
 2. Encourage the parent to identify him or herself.
 3. Encourage the parent to share relevant family/medical history.
 4. Inform the parent that they can receive counseling or medical attention.
 5. Inform the parent that a reasonable effort must be made to identify the non-surrendering parent.
 6. That the placement agency can provide confidential services to the parent.
 7. Inform the parent that they may sign a release for the newborn to be used in a termination hearing.
 8. Provide the parent written information that includes:
 - a. Surrendering Parents Rights Form

- b. Voluntary Release for Adoption of Surrendered Newborn by Parents Form
 - c. Voluntary Medical Background Form for a Surrendered Newborn
 - 9. Examine the infant for injuries. If the infant exhibits injuries that indicate abuse or neglect, then a criminal complaint will be conducted. However, we are prohibited from initiating a criminal investigation solely on the basis of the newborn being surrendered.
 - a. Contact and activate EMS.
 - b. Conduct a field report/investigation (General Order 1214, Field Reporting), and forward to the Investigations Unit Supervisor.
 - c. It will be the responsibility of the Investigations Unit to conduct the investigation of the alleged child abuse/neglect.
 - 10. Transfer the newborn to the hospital by ambulance. Temporary protective custody cannot be turned over to the ambulance crew. The officer receiving the newborn may ride with or follow the infant to the hospital where custody can be transferred.
- D. Safe Delivery Packets Available to Assist the Reporting Officer
 - 1. Contents of the packet:
 - a. Reporting officer checklist
 - b. General instructions
 - c. Surrendering Parents Rights (provide to parents)
 - d. Release for Adoption Form
 - e. Confidential Medical Information Form
 - f. What am I going to do? Pamphlet (provide to parents)
 - 2. Complete the checklist and attach to report. Forward the original copy of the Release for Adoption Form and the Confidential Medical Information Form to Family Independence Agency via the Records Unit.

IV. CANCELLATIONS

Authorized By:



Kim Johnson, Chief of Police