Name of Policy:	**Safe Haven for Newborn Protocol**	
Policy Number:	3364-117-20	
Department:	Emergency Services	THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER
Approving Officer:	Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)	
Responsible Agent:	Nursing Director, Emergency Department (ED)	**Effective Date**: 10/2023
Scope:	Emergency Services	Initial Effective Date: 4/2001

_____ New policy proposal	**X**	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
_____ Major revision of existing policy		Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

The 'Safe Haven Place Newborn' is a program of the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office and the Children's Services Board designed to provide a safe haven for the newborn in lieu of abandonment, injury or death.

(B) Purpose of Policy

The hospitals of Lucas County, the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office, and the Children's Services Board (CSB) have joined together in this initiative to offer confidential protective shelter, medical care, and treatment in a hospital setting to unwanted newborns until permanent placement is arranged by Children's Services.

(C) Procedure

1. If a newborn is left anywhere on hospital property, the ED is to be called and arrangements will be made to transport the infant to the ED.

2. The individual leaving the newborn is NOT to be questioned regarding identity or intent. If possible, ask the individual if they would be willing to complete and send back medical information or provide medical information at the time that the newborn is relinquished. A hotline is in place to answer anonymous questions and to obtain CSB medical forms. The hotline number is 1-877-767-BABY (2229).

3. If the newborn appears to be abused or neglected, contact hospital security to attempt to detain the individual and contact the police. Photos should be taken with departmental camera of injuries of newborn or infant. Consent would not be needed since this is a mandatory report.

4. If the ED receives the newborn, the following is to be completed:
    a. The ED physician:
    - Assesses the newborn
    - Relays assessment findings to the pediatrician on call or designee
    - Documents that the newborn appears to be less than 72 hours old, if applicable, and that there are no signs of abuse, if applicable
    - Makes arrangements for the newborn to be transported to Mercy Children's Hospital or the Toledo Children's Hospital for admission to the newborn nursery
    b. The ED nurse or Charge nurse will notify:
    - The social worker and CSB of the admission of the Safe Harbor newborn
    - The ED Director
    - The House Supervisor (HS) if after hours
    c. The ED Director or HS will notify the Hospital Administrator on call and Hospital Public Relations department.
    d. Written documentation will be placed in the newborn's chart regarding any contact with CSB and / or the caseworker and any discharge plans.
    e. ED registration will register the Safe Haven newborn using alias protocol if name is unknown.

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5. Birth Records
    a. Certificate of live birth worksheet will be used to create the Foundling Report.
    b. The word "Foundling" will be typed / printed at the top of the birth certificate form above the words "Ohio Department of Health."
    c. As much information as possible will be placed on the form, including name, sex, date of birth, place of birth (should the newborn be dropped off).

6. CSB
    a. Seeks legal custody of the newborn infant from point of phone call from the ED.
    b. Assess viable alternatives for placement, including appropriate relative resources, if known.
    c. Provides protective, supportive and placement services as appropriate.

7. Any release of information must be coordinated with the Lucas County Prosecutor's office, CSB, and the hospital.

Approved by:		Review/Revision Date:
		8/03
		8/05
/s/		1/2008
Julia Benfield, BSN, RN, CEN	Date	7/6/2011
Nursing Director, Emergency Department & House		10.20.14
Supervisor		10/2017
		10/2020
		10/2023
/s/		
Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC	Date	
Chief Nursing Officer		
Review: Policy & Standard Committee, 6/14, 10/2017, 10/2020, 10/2023		
Review Completed By: Julia Benfield, BSN, RN,		**Next Review Date:** 10/2026
Policies Superseded by This Policy: 5-7-2		