(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.

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 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.
5. Birth Records
   a. Certificate of live birth 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 Prosecutor’s office, CSB, and the hospital.

Approved by:

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Date

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