



INFANT ABANDONMENT / SAFE SURRENDER

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all members.

PURPOSE

To establish procedures for complying with the Safe Surrender Law for members of Stoney Point Fire Department.

DEFINITIONS

Guideline - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

Member – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

Shall - indicates a mandatory requirement

Policy Number

7A.030

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GUIDELINES:

In July 2001, North Carolina enacted the Safe Surrender Law which detailed multiple individuals as being acceptable to receive temporary custody for abandoned infants, to include Emergency Medical personnel working at fire stations. The primary mission of Stoney Point Fire Department is the preservation of life and our compliance with these laws is an extension of that mission. Therefore, at no time, will Stoney Point Fire Department turn away a child.

In the event that an infant is delivered into the custody of Stoney Point Fire Department personnel, all actions necessary to protect the infant's health and wellbeing shall be taken immediately. Additionally, the personnel shall notify the Cumberland County Social Services and appropriate law enforcement agency as below.

| Agency | Phone Number |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Department Social Services (Fayetteville Branch) | 910-323-1540 |
| Cumberland County Sheriff's Office | 910-323-1500 |
| Fayetteville Police Department | 910-433-1911 |

Stoney Point Fire Department personnel shall inquire as to the identity of the infant's parents and all relevant medical history from the individual surrendering the infant. However, the individual is not required to provide any information.



Common Questions Regarding Safe Surrender

Which infants may be relinquished?

- Child must be less than 7 days old

Who may relinquish an infant?

- A parent that voluntarily surrenders the infant and expresses no intent to return for the infant

What are the incentives for a person to relinquish an infant to a Safe Surrender individual?

- Protection from liability and prosecution for abandonment

Who can accept a relinquished baby?

- Health care provider who is on duty or at a hospital, local or district health department, or nonprofit community health center
- Law enforcement officer who is on duty or at a police station or sheriff's department
- Social services worker who is on duty or at a local department of social services
- Certified emergency medical service worker who is on duty or at a fire station or emergency medical services station
- Any adult

What are the responsibilities of a Safe Surrender individual?

- Take the child into temporary custody
- Perform any act necessary to protect the physical health and wellbeing of the child
- Immediately notify the department of social services or a local law enforcement agency
- May ask parent for identification and medical history
 - Must tell the parent that the parent is not required to provide information

Is the Safe Surrender individual protected from liability for its actions?

- Yes. The law provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for good faith actions

References

NC GS 7B-500
NC GS 14-322.3
NC SL 2001-291
Safe Surrender

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