



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

OPERATING POLICY

CATEGORY:	CLINICAL MANAGEMENT	CODE:	M-122
SUBJECT:	CUSTODY OF NEWBORN (Safe Surrender/Safe Haven)	EFFECTIVE:	12/2018
		REPLACES:	10/2015
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1. The Emergency Department (ED) shall be the department in LLUMC at which a parent or legal guardian may voluntarily surrender an infant within 72 hours of birth.
2. The ED employee who takes physical custody of such an infant shall:
 - 2.1 Facilitate a medical screening examination and any necessary medical care to the infant.

Note: Consent of the infant's parent/legal guardian or other relative is not required.
 - 2.2 Provide, or make good faith effort to provide, the person surrendering custody a medical information questionnaire, which may be:
 - a. Declined,
 - b. Voluntarily completed at the time of surrender, or
 - c. Completed and mailed in the return envelope provided by the ED.
 - 2.3 Place a coded, confidential identification ankle bracelet on the infant and provide, or make good faith effort to provide, the parent or custodian surrendering the infant a copy of that coded, confidential identification bracelet.
 - 2.4 Promptly notify Child Protective Services (CPS) to take immediate and temporary custody of the infant.

Note: The social worker makes the initial contact and CPS will assume custody upon notification.
3. The infant shall receive care in the ED until determination is made for hospital admission or surrendered to CPS pursuant to court order.
4. If the infant requires admission to the hospital, the infant shall be admitted to the most appropriate unit for care under the direction of the pediatrician on duty.
5. The Division of Forensic Pediatrics shall be notified if there is suspicion of abuse or neglect (reference Policy [Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation \(M-8\)](#)).

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6. LLUMC shall surrender the infant to CPS pursuant to court order.
7. The person surrendering custody of the infant to LLUMC may petition CPS to retake custody. In that event, the LLUMC social worker/ED Case Manager shall interface with CPS, but the infant shall not be discharged to the surrendering person without written authorization from CPS.

APPROVERS: Hospital Executive Leadership, LLUMC Chief Executive Officer, Senior VP, Patient Care Services