



Safe Delivery Highlights

Safe Delivery Program Purpose:

Safe Delivery is a law that allows a parent or parents to safely and legally surrender their newborn of no more than three days old. A newborn may be given to a uniformed employee who is inside and on duty at any hospital, fire department, police station. The parent or parents may also surrender their newborn by calling 9-1-1. The newborn will be placed for adoption. This program is safe, legal and confidential. For more information, please visit the [Safe Delivery of Newborns Law](#). A hotline is available at 866-733-7733.

Safe Delivery Advisory Committee:

The Safe Delivery Steering Committee is comprised of a dedicated multi-disciplinary group of professionals who work with families, children, and Emergency Service Providers, as well as adoption agency staff who are responsible for placing surrendered newborns with a pre-approved adoptive family. There are currently 21 members of the steering committee, who meet biannually. The purpose of the committee is: 1) to offer recommendations for Safe Delivery improvement and seamless delivery statewide; and 2) to assist in raising awareness of the Safe Delivery program statewide.

Michigan's Safe Delivery of Newborns Law:

- Visit: [Safe Delivery of Newborns Law](#)

Statistics (Between 01/01/2001 – 08/07/2020):

- Total Number of Surrenders: 266
- Number of Counties: 38
- Location of Surrender:
 - Hospital: 259
 - Fire Department: 6
 - Police Station: 1
 - 9-1-1 Call: 0

History:

- National Safe Delivery/Safe Haven Laws
 - [State Safe Haven Organizations](#)
- Michigan Safe Delivery Law:
 - [Safe Delivery of Newborns, Act 288 of 1939](#)
 - [Safe Delivery of Newborns Law PA232, 2000](#)
 - Allowable Age of Surrender
 - Currently 72 hours or less.
 - Method of Surrender:
 - A parent or parents may legally surrender a newborn of no more than three days (72 hours) of age to an Emergency Service Provider, who is a uniformed employee who is inside and on duty at any hospital, fire department, police station, or by calling 9-1-1.

- At the Time of Surrender:
 - The parent(s) will have the opportunity to provide any medical background information, which will be kept confidential. This information will be helpful in providing the best care for the newborn.
 - The parent(s) will be informed that they can receive medical care and counseling. The adoption agency that takes a surrendered newborn into temporary protective custody can provide the parent(s) with confidential services.
 - The parent(s) will be asked to sign a voluntary release for adoption but may decline to do so.
 - The surrendering parent will be asked to identify the non-surrendering parent but may decline to do so.
 - If the newborn was surrendered to police, fire, or an Emergency Medical Technician/paramedic responding to a 9-1-1 call, the newborn will be transported to a hospital to receive a physician's examination.
 - After the Surrender:
 - The hospital will contact a private adoption agency.
 - Adoption agencies are responsible for accepting surrendered newborns and identifying loving families to adopt them.
 - There are over 35 private adoption agencies serving all 83 counties, that will provide placement for a surrendered newborn with an approved adoptive family.
- Ideally, the best practice is a traditional adoption process because the interests of the infant, mother, father, and/or caretakers are fully considered.

Current Program:

- Housed within the Infant Health Unit of the MDHHS Division of Maternal and Infant Health
 - Safe Delivery Programming includes:
 - Developing and updating existing Safe Delivery Awareness Materials in accordance with the Michigan Safe Delivery of Newborns law.
 - Managing the distribution and promotion of Safe Delivery materials and resources.
 - Providing trainings and education to promote awareness of the Safe Delivery of Newborns Law to local organizations to inform their development of policy and procedures.
 - Conducting surveillance of Safe Delivery of Newborn surrenders statewide.
 - Convening the Safe Delivery of Newborns Steering Committee and Workgroups
 - Providing oversight of the Safe Delivery of Newborns Hotline: 1-866-733-7733