

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Children's System of Care**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health and Human Services
C.B. Bautista, Director of Children's System of Care
DATE: June 13, 2006
SUBJECT: Designation of Newborn Safe Surrender Sites

ACTION REQUESTED:

Adopt a Resolution designating specific fire stations within Placer County as Newborn Safe Surrender Sites.

BACKGROUND:

The Safely Surrendered Baby was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis in September 2000 and went into effect on January 1, 2001. The purpose of the law is to protect babies from harm or death when they are abandoned. The law allows a parent or legal guardian to confidentially surrender an infant, three days old or younger, to any public or private hospital emergency room, or other locations (such as fire stations) designated by the County Board of Supervisors. As long as the baby has not been abused or neglected, the person may surrender the baby without fear of arrest or prosecution for child abandonment.

On October 2, 2002, Governor Davis unveiled a California campaign entitled, "No Shame, No Blame, No Names" aimed at informing the public of the State's Safely Surrendered Baby law.

On August 1, 2003, legislation was enacted to strengthen existing Safely Surrendered Baby Law by:

- Expanding criteria for safe surrender personnel authorized to accept physical custody of an infant to "any personnel on duty at a safe surrender site" as opposed to "designated staff."
- Protecting the confidentiality of a parent who surrenders a child
- Requiring safe surrender sites to post uniform signage
- Requiring a safe surrender site to notify Child Protective Services as soon as possible after an infant has been surrendered

The Placer County Fire Chiefs are proponents of a coordinated County-wide effort to create an effective program of safe haven sites. The Placer County Emergency Medical Care Committee commissioned by the Board of Supervisors concurs that a policy is needed in Placer County and have agreed to develop a policy and select specific fire stations (those that are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week) for safe baby surrender. Designation of fire stations and development of protocols for this program are now complete, and the agreed-upon fire station designations are included in the attached Resolution.

County-wide implementation will facilitate public educational outreach and reduce confusion regarding fire department participation. Once this resolution is adopted and operational, parents and legal guardians will be able to leave infants with fire personnel at any designated fire station in the County. Staff will provide a medical questionnaire and information about the program to the surrendering guardian.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact is minor. The predominant expense will be training of firefighters, which can be absorbed in current fire agency budgets.

List of Designated Fire Stations for the Surrender of Newborn Babies within Placer County

Station 1 - Roseville Fire	401 Oak Street	Roseville, CA 95678
Station 2 - Roseville Fire	1398 Junction Boulevard	Roseville, CA 95747
Station 3 - Roseville Fire	1300 Cirby Way	Roseville, CA 95661
Station 4 - Roseville Fire	1900 Eureka Road	Roseville, CA 95661
Station 5 - Roseville Fire	1565 Pleasant Grove Boulevard	Roseville, CA 95747
Station 6 - Roseville Fire	1430 E. Roseville Parkway	Roseville, CA 95661
Station 8 - Roseville Fire	1020 Winding Creek Way, Ste 150	Roseville, CA 95747
Station 2 - Auburn City	226 Sacramento Street	Auburn, CA 95603
Station 10 - CDF/PCF	13760 Lincoln Way	Auburn, CA 95603
Station 30 - CDF/PCF	24020 Fowler Road	Colfax, CA 95713
Station 33 - CDF/PCF	3333 Alta Forestry Road	Alta, CA 95701
Station 38 - Penryn	7206 Church Street	Penryn, CA 95663
Station 64 - Placer Consolidated	11645 Atwood Road	Auburn, CA 95603
Station 65 - Placer Consolidated	9305 Wise Road	Auburn, CA 95603
Station 70 - CDF/PCF	301 Oak Tree Lane	Lincoln, CA 95648
Station 77 - CDF/PCF	1300 Athens Road	Lincoln, CA 95648
Station 84 - Weimar	100 West Weimar Crossroads	Weimar, CA 95736
Station 86 - Meadow Vista	16999 Placer Hills Road	Meadow Vista, CA 95722
Station 88 - Foresthill Fire	5981 Gold Street	Foresthill, CA 95631
Station 100 - CDF/PCF	8350 Cook Riolo Road	Roseville, CA 95747

CDF/PCF = California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Placer County Fire

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Designating Fire Stations As Safely
Surrendered Baby Sites Within
Placer County

Resolution No: _____

Ord. No.: _____

First Reading: _____

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **June 13, 2006** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____

Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, each year across the country unwanted babies are abandoned and left to die; and

WHEREAS, the California Safely Surrendered Baby law contained in California Health and Safety Code Section 1255.7 was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis in September of 2000 and specifies that the County Board of Supervisors may designate locations as newborn "safe surrender sites"; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this law is to allow a parent or legal guardian to bring an unwanted baby to a safe surrender site without fear of prosecution for child abandonment; and

WHEREAS, as of January, 2006, approximately 110 babies have been safely surrendered in the State of California since the passage of the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law; and

WHEREAS, the Placer County Emergency Medical Committee and the Placer County Fire Chiefs believe that the proposed list of designated Fire Stations would be appropriate locations for such safe surrender sites, being staffed 24 hours a day/7 days a week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Placer County hereby designates as Newborn Safe Surrender Sites, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 1255.7, the fire stations attached hereto, and directs each respective Fire Chief to ensure their site is in compliance with Health and Safety Code Section 1255.7 and to post the State-wide "safe haven" logo previously adopted by the California Department of Social Services.

