



## MASON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #4

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TITLE: NEWBORN BABY TRANSFER TO DISTRICT STATIONS

CHAPTER: 4000 NUMBER: 4090 DATE: 10-07-08

APPROVED: Signature on file Bob Burbridge, Chief

1. PURPOSE: Give guidance on how to handle a newborn baby left at or attempted to be left at a fire station.
2. RESPONSIBILITIES: It is the responsibility of each member of the Mason County Fire District #4 to ensure they are in compliance with this policy. It is the responsibility of the Chief to enforce this policy.
3. POLICY: The Washington State Legislature enacted and the Governor signed into law ESSB 5236, which allows parents of newborn (less than 72 hours old) children to transfer such children to fire stations that have the capability of accepting such children, without facing charges of abandonment or non-support.
4. PROCEDURE:

Whenever a “qualified person” associated with the District is requested to accept custody of a “newborn” child or any child who may or may not qualify as “newborn”, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The qualified person will notify dispatch that a newborn or other child has been received and request an EMS Response. (If it is determined that the child is a newborn and the transferor is a parent, then the qualified person will assure the parent that the qualified person will summon all appropriate resources to meet the newborn’s immediate needs).
2. EMS personnel shall medically assess the infant in accordance with local protocols and provide the appropriate level of BLS/ALS care.
3. The qualified person will inquire as to whether the transferring person is a parent of the child, without requesting name, social security number or other identifying information.
4. The qualified person will attempt to verify the date and time of birth of the child to ascertain if the child is a “newborn” within the coverage of the bill.
5. Based on the answers to these questions, the qualified person will determine if the bill applies to the situation or not.



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6. Assuring anonymity to the parent, the qualified person will immediately try to attain completion of the family medical history questionnaire. When that is completed, the parent will be given the pamphlet with referral information, but such information shall be provided even if the parent refuses to provide any medical history or information.
7. The qualified person will assure that Child Protective Services (CPS) is notified by District personnel within 24 hours of the infants transfer.
8. If it is determined that the child is not a “newborn” under the statute the qualified person may attempt to obtain family medical history through any means reasonably available, and shall address the immediate health and safety needs of the child. Law enforcement shall be notified of the incident, because there may be criminal liability on the part of the parent, if the law is inapplicable.
9. In the event that any employee or member of the department, who is not a “qualified person” under the above definition, is asked to accept transfer of a newborn from a parent, or any child of tender years from any person, they will ask the person to wait a few minutes while they summon a “qualified person”. The District employee or member will then immediately call 911 and request an EMS Response.