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**Government of the District of Columbia**  
Child and Family Services Agency



**Newborn Safe Haven Program:  
Annual Status Report 2015**

Submitted to the Committee on Health and Human Services

January 8, 2016

## Newborn Safe Haven Program Annual Status Report 2015

CFSA Submission to DC Council Committee on Health and Human Services  
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### Introduction

*The Newborn Safe Haven Act of 2010* law (L18-158) allows a parent who resides in the District of Columbia to surrender a newborn infant less than 14 days old to staff at designated hospitals (Authorized Receiving Facilities) in the District confidentially and without fear of prosecution, if there is no evidence of child abuse or neglect. Hospitals are required to notify the Child and Family Services (CFSA) immediately when a newborn is surrendered under the law. Within 23 hours, CFSA will take custody of the newborn from the hospital. At this point, CFSA will provide foster care services to the newborn while seeking a permanent home through adoption.

The law requires annually on January 1st the submission of a status report giving an update on the number of newborns in the District of Columbia surrendered under the law within the year. This status report is being submitted to the Committee on Health and Human Services to fulfill the requirement.

### Status Report

The following are CFSA's responses to questions found in Section 107 "Status Report" in *The Newborn Safe Haven Act of 2010*.

#### **1. Number of newborns surrendered and dates of surrender**

There were no newborns surrendered under the Newborn Safe Haven law in the District from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

#### **2. Services provided to surrendered newborns**

No newborns were surrendered under the law; therefore no services were provided.

#### **3. Outcome of the care provided for each surrendered newborn**

See response for question 2.

#### **4. Number and disposition of cases of surrendered newborns**

See response for question 2.

### Activities

CFSA will conduct 90 minutes of training twice per year beginning in April 2016 with the DC Hospital Association and hospital staff at Authorized Receiving Facilities on policies, procedures, and outreach efforts in implementing the Safe Haven Program.

The Newborn Safe Haven law authorizes all hospitals in the District of Columbia to function as Authorized Receiving Facilities (ARFs) for acceptance of newborns for surrender. There is a total of 14 hospitals in the District that must comply with the law.

Information about the program can be found on CFSA's website at <http://cfsa.dc.gov/service/safe-havens-newborns>. ARFs or safe haven locations can be found in the *DC Safe Haven General Information* publication found on CFSA's website.