



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

Newborn Safe Haven Program **Annual Status Report 2018**

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Introduction

The Newborn Safe Haven Amendment Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-158; D.C. Official Code § 4–1451.01 et seq.) 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 or ARFs) 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 Agency (CFSA) immediately when a newborn is surrendered under the law. CFSA takes custody of the newborn from the hospital within 23 hours of notice. CFSA then provides foster care services to the newborn while seeking a permanent home through adoption.

The law requires the Mayor to submit an annual status report giving an update on the number of newborns in the District of Columbia surrendered under the law within the reporting year. This status report to the Council of the District of Columbia fulfills the requirement.

Status Report

Following are CFSA's responses to questions found in the D.C. Official Code § 4–1451.07- Status Report section.

- **Number of newborns surrendered and dates of surrender**
One female newborn was surrendered under the Newborn Safe Haven Amendment Act of 2010 law on April 21, 2018, at the Washington Hospital Center.
- **Services provided to surrendered newborns**
CFSA placed the newborn in a pre-adoptive home upon discharge from the hospital on April 27, 2018. CFSA scheduled follow-up medical appointments in 2018 at Howard University Hospital on April 30, May 24, June 25, August 28, and November 5 on the newborn's behalf and is providing support and education to the pre-adoptive parents.
- **Outcome of the care provided for each surrendered newborn**
The pre-adoptive parent filed an adoption petition on July 27, 2018.
- **Number and disposition of cases of surrendered newborns**
Adoption finalization occurred on September 7, 2018, for the newborn surrendered on December 1, 2017, at the George Washington University Hospital, identified in the 2017 annual status report.

Adoption finalization for the newborn surrendered on April 21, 2018, at the Washington Hospital Center, is pending. Adoption finalization is expected to occur in 2019.

Activities

In 2018, due to staffing changes, no dedicated trainings on the Safe Haven Program were provided to investigative social workers in the CFSA Child Protective Services Administration. Two 60 minute refresher trainings for the investigative social workers will be provided in 2019. This will ensure that social workers are continuously aware of the policies and procedures relating to the Newborn Safe Haven Program. The training will be conducted by the staff responsible for the Newborn Safe Haven

Program and a trainer from the CFSA Child Welfare Training Academy. The trainings will be offered at varied times to ensure all tours of duty are covered.

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