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



**Newborn Safe Haven Program:  
Annual Status Report 2013**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services

January 10, 2014

## Newborn Safe Haven Program Annual Status Report 2013

CFSA Submission to DC Council Committee on Human Services  
January 10, 2014

### Introduction

*The Newborn Safe Haven* law (L18-158) allows a parent who resides in the District of Columbia to surrender a newborn infant less than 14 days old at designated District of Columbia hospitals 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. 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 the submission of a status report to the DC Council annually on January 1<sup>st</sup>.<sup>1</sup> The report is required to provide the number of newborns in the District of Columbia surrendered under the law within the previous year (January-December). This status report is being submitted to the DC Council's Committee on Human Services to fulfill the requirement.

### Status Report

The following responses address the reporting requirements found in *The Newborn Safe Haven Act of 2010*, under Section 107, "Status Report".

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

There was one newborn surrendered under the Newborn Safe Haven law in the District on July 10, 2013.

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

On the date of surrender, the mother contacted CFSA and requested her newborn be returned to her care. CFSA conducted a safety assessment and developed a safety plan for the mother before the newborn was returned home. After the newborn returned home, CFSA's Safe Haven Unit monitored and provided assistance to the mother for a month. Services included linking mother to mental health provider, scheduling appointments with existing health service providers, and assisting with daycare services.

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

While monitoring the family, CFSA became concerned with the child's safety. As a result of the mother's non-compliance with the safety plan, the Safe Haven Unit made a Child Protective Services (CPS) report. The grandmother now has custody of the child and is currently participating in the District's Grandparent Caregivers Subsidy Program for assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> CFSA received approval from Chairman Graham of the Committee on Human Services to submit the report on January 10, 2014 to reflect the entire 2013 calendar year

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

During the 2013 reporting period, there was one newborn surrendered. There was no court disposition associated with this case.

**Activities**

CFSA is continuing to raise the awareness of the Newborn Safe Haven Program through ongoing training with staff.