Grant County Fire Protection District 3

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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1. NUMBER: 1.1.11

2. SUBJECT: ***Newborn Baby Transfer***

3. POLICY: In order to meet the Washington Safe Haven Laws RCW 13.34.360, which allows parents of Newborn's (less than 72 hours old) children to transfer such children to fire stations, without facing charges of abandonment or non-support it's our duty to fulfill this requirement. This Policy and Procedure is established to define that process.

4. SCOPE: This Policy and Procedure is applicable to all personnel of Grant County Fire District 3.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:
   A. The District Fire Chief is responsible for ensuring that this Policy and Procedure is adhered to.

   B. All personnel are responsible for complying with this Policy and Procedure.

6. 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:

   A. 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).

   B. EMS personnel shall medically assess the infant in accordance with local protocols and provide the appropriate level of BLS/ALS care.

   C. 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.

   D. 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.

   E. Based on the answers to these questions, the qualified person will determine if the RCW 13.34.360 applies to the situation or not.

F. 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.

G. The qualified person will assure that Child Protective Services (CPS) is notified by District personnel with 24 hours of the infant's transfer.

H. 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.

I. In the event that any employee or member of the District, 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.

Pursuant to the law, the qualified person is immune from liability, criminal or civil, for accepting or receiving a newborn under this section. The qualified person shall also complete a detailed incident report, outlining all discussions with the parent or other person transferring custody, a general statement of the newborn or child's condition, the time and place received, all parties notified and the agency to whom custody is ultimately transferred. The foregoing incident report is in addition to an EMS report documenting the child's emergency medical care.

See Appendix 1.1.11