



SUBJECT: <b>Birthing Support Person</b>	PAGE <u> 1 </u> OF <u> 4 </u>
	NUMBER: <b>71-SOC-02</b>
RULE/CODE REFERENCE:	SUPERSEDES: 71-SOC-02 dated 02/05/15
RELATED ACA STANDARDS:	EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>January 19, 2017</b>
	APPROVED: 

**I. AUTHORITY**

This policy is issued in compliance with Ohio Revised Code 5120.01 which delegates to the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction the authority to manage and direct the total operations of the Department and to establish such rules and regulations as the Director prescribes.

**II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish standard procedural guidelines to permit pregnant inmates incarcerated within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) to have a birthing support person present during labor and delivery of their child.

**III. APPLICABILITY**

This policy shall be applicable to all employees of the DRC and independent contractors directly or indirectly involved with the labor and delivery of a child from an incarcerated pregnant inmate.

**IV. DEFINITIONS**

**Approved Child Care Provider** - A person approved by the appropriate Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) representative to take custody of the infant once medical staff have discharged the baby from the hospital.

**Approved Visitor** - An approved visitor is a person, family or friend, who has submitted an acceptable Visiting Application (DRC2096). The inmate visiting list shall provide for up to fifteen (15) visitors, not including any listed attorney of record and/or clergy of record. The managing officer may authorize additional visitors.

**Birthing Support Handbook** - An instruction booklet containing rules and procedures mandated by the DRC, directions to the Ohio State University Medical Center (OSUMC), and frequently asked questions.

**Birthing Support Person (BSP)** - Any individual, not currently under the supervision of the DRC (unless otherwise approved by the Director/designee), selected by the pregnant inmate to assist her during the labor and delivery of her child. The BSP must be an approved DRC visitor of the inmate, and/or pre-identified volunteer designated by the managing officer.

**Labor and Delivery** - The process of giving birth.

**Placement Coordinator** - An employee who is responsible for offering classes on pre-natal topics and coordinating placement of infants between the mother and public children service representatives.

**Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Visitor** - Two (2) individuals named by the inmate to visit the baby in the NICU (Form2741).

## V. **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) to permit a person to support a pregnant inmate during labor and delivery. The emphasis within this process is to facilitate family ties and strengthen the bond between the extended family and newborn.

## VI. **PROCEDURES**

### A. **Birthing Support Person Application**

1. Forty-five (45) days prior to the expected date of delivery, a pregnant inmate may submit to the Placement Coordinator a written request to have a Birthing Support Person (BSP) present at the time of delivery.
2. The BSP must be on the inmate's approved visiting list.
3. The Placement Coordinator shall verify the BSP is on the inmate's official visiting list.
4. The Placement Coordinator shall mail a BSP Handbook (Appendix A), BSP Letter of Invitation (Appendix B), and a BSP Visitor Application (DRC2603) to the prospective BSP. The application and the signature page of the handbook must be returned within fourteen (14) days after receipt.
5. Upon receipt of the BSP Visitor Application (DRC2603), the Placement Coordinator shall forward the application for a background check (LEADS) of the BSP.
6. The Placement Coordinator shall schedule a face-to-face interview after reviewing the BSP's background, the visitor application and other pertinent information. When mitigating circumstances prevent a face-to-face interview, the Placement Coordinator is authorized to coordinate an alternative interview utilizing authorized web-based technology.
7. The FMC managing officer shall have the final approval on all requests for a BSP.

8. The approved BSP's application contact information shall be forwarded to the FMC shift captain, the FMC medical department, the FMC records office, the inmate's unit file and to Ohio State University Medical Center (OSUMC) Social Services Department.

**B. Birth Support Person Agreement**

1. During the face-to-face interview the following shall be discussed with the BSP applicant:
  - a. LEADS check, which shall have already been completed and approved by the managing officer.
  - b. Termination of the BSP's attendance may occur at any time by the order of the managing officer, hospital staff FMC shift commander or request of the offender. BSP behavior that is deemed inappropriate, such as but not limited to, intoxication, under the influence of a substance, disrespectful language, inappropriate touching, etc., may be grounds for such termination.
  - c. Standard security and search procedures shall be conducted before the BSP is permitted to enter the hospital room.
    - i. Each time the BSP exits the room, before reentering he/she must report to the FMC shift office on 8 West Doan for reprocessing.
    - ii. A refusal to submit to security and search procedures shall result in removal from the labor and delivery floor and removal as a BSP participant.
  - d. The BSP shall bear all personal expenses such as parking, transportation, meals, hotels, etc.
  - e. The BSP shall be contacted by the FMC shift commander after the offender is admitted to OSUMC.
  - f. Attendance at the birth is limited to one (1) person only.
  - g. The BSP is not to bring or give anything to the inmate at any time.
  - h. In the event of a high risk delivery or where general anesthesia is administered, the BSP shall not be permitted at the birth.
  - i. The BSP shall not handle any surgical instruments or medications.
  - j. No cell phones, cameras, video or audio taping devices shall be permitted in delivery room.
  - k. Once the inmate has given birth, the BSP may remain with the inmate for no more than one (1) hour.

1. OSUMC Social Services Department shall contact the approved placement provider and make arrangements for the baby's discharge.
  
- m. In the event the baby is placed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the pregnant inmate shall name two (2) individuals allowed to visit the newborn using the Approved Baby Visitor Form (DRC2741).

**C. Staff Training**

Officers assigned to pregnant inmates during labor and delivery shall receive training on rules and procedures for BSP attendance.

**Attachments:**

Appendix A Birthing Support Person Handbook  
Appendix B BSP Letter of Invitation

**Related Department Forms:**

Visiting Application DRC2096  
Birthing Support Visitor Application DRC2603  
Approved Baby Visitor Form DRC2741

## **Appendix A**

### **Birthing Support Person Handbook**

It is our hope that your presence at the birth will provide the beginning of the bond that binds your family together. Please read this handbook carefully and bring it with you to the Ohio State University Medical Center (OSUMC) to refer to as needed. In order to be considered as a Birthing Support Person, the following steps must be completed:

1. The pregnant inmate shall request you as a Birthing Support Person (BSP) to be present at the birth of her child.
2. The BSP must be on the inmate's approved visiting list.
3. The BSP application must be returned to Franklin Medical Center within fourteen days.
4. The BSP must sign the Birthing Support Person Agreement.

#### **BIRTHING SUPPORT PERSON AGREEMENT**

1. A criminal background check will be conducted and reviewed.
2. Termination of the BSP's attendance may occur at any time by the order of the Warden, hospital staff or request of the inmate. BSP behavior that is deemed inappropriate, such as but not limited to: intoxication, under the influence of a substance, disrespectful language, inappropriate touching, providing contraband to the inmate, etc., will not be tolerated and cause for BSP termination.
3. Standard security and search procedures will be conducted before the BSP is permitted to enter the hospital room. This procedure will be repeated each time the BSP exits and enters the room. A refusal to submit will result in removal from the labor and delivery floor and removal as a BSP participant.
4. The BSP will bear all personal expenses such as parking, transportation, meals, hotels, etc.
5. BSP will be contacted by the FMC Warden's designee after the inmate is admitted to OSUMC.
6. Attendance at birth is limited to one person only.
7. The BSP is not to bring or give anything to the inmate at any time.
8. In the event of a high risk delivery or where general anesthesia is administered, the BSP will not be permitted at the birth.
9. The BSP will not handle any surgical instruments or medications.

10. No cameras, cell phones, video or audio taping devices are permitted in delivery room.
11. When the inmate has been transferred to their room and the baby to the nursery, the BSP contact is terminated.
12. A request for religious accommodations should be directed to the institutional chaplain.
13. OSUMC Social Services Department will contact the approved Placement Provider and make arrangements for the baby's discharge.
14. The pregnant inmate will name two individuals allowed to visit the newborn in the event the baby is placed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) (DRC2741).

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How will I know when the inmate arrives at OSUMC?**

DRC staff will contact the BSP after the inmate is actually admitted to OSUMC.

### **OSUMC Contact Information?**

The Ohio State University Medical Center  
410 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43210  
Patient Information: (614) 293-8300

### **What do I do once I am at OSUMC?**

Report to the Lieutenants' Office on 8 West Doan. Present your name, picture ID and a copy of your Birthing Support Visitor Application Addendum. You will be permitted to carry money, car keys and ID **ONLY!**

### **How long will I be at the hospital?**

Because you will not know how long the labor will be, you need to be able to provide for all your financial needs, which may include meals, parking fees and possibly lodging. Neither OSUMC nor the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction will provide any of these services to you.

### **If I am the approved caregiver, what will the baby need upon release?**

You should have the following for the baby: clothing and approved infant seat. These items should be left in your vehicle until the infant is discharged from OSUMC.

### **Directions to OSUMC?**

*From North:* Take OH-315 South toward Columbus. Take Kinnear Road exit toward Olentangy River Road. Turn left onto Kinnear Road. Turn left onto Olentangy River Road. Turn right onto John. H. Herrick Drive. Turn right onto Cannon Drive. Turn left onto Medical Center drive. Hospital and visitor parking will be to your left.

*From East:* take I-70 West toward Columbus. Merge onto I-71 North via Exit 101A toward Cleveland. Merge onto I-670 West via exit 109A on the left. Merge onto OH-315 North via Exit 2B. Take the Medical Center Drive exit toward King Avenue / Hospital. Stay straight to go onto Medical Center Drive. The hospital and visitor parking will be on your left.

*From South:* Take I-71 North toward Columbus. Keep left to take OH-315 North toward Dayton. Take the Medical Center Drive exit toward King Avenue / Hospital. Stay straight to onto Medical Center Drive. The hospital and visitor parking will on your left.

*From West:* Take I-70 east toward Columbus. Keep left to take I-670 East via Exit 96 toward airport. Merge onto OH-315 North via exit 2b. Take the Medical Center Drive exit toward King Avenue / Hospital. Stay straight to go onto Medical Center Drive. The hospital and visiting parking will be on your left.

**Appendix B**  
**Birthing Support Person Letter of Invitation**

DATE:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

RE: INMATE'S NAME AND NUMBER

Dear Birthing Support Person Applicant:

Inmate \_\_\_\_\_, Number \_\_\_\_\_ has requested in writing that you be present to participate in the birth of her baby due on or around \_\_\_\_\_. According to the Birthing Support Policy 71-SOC-02, the following process must be completed for you to be considered as a Birthing Support Person (BSP). Please carefully fill out the Birthing Support Application (DRC2603) and read the handbook. Please return the completed application to: Placement Coordinator, Franklin Medical Center, 1990 Harmon Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43223.

Once your completed application has been received, allow two weeks for a criminal background check to be conducted by Franklin Medical Center. You will need to be interviewed by the Placement Coordinator. The Placement Coordinator will contact you to schedule a face-to-face interview.

Thank you for your interest in the Birthing Support Program.

Sincerely,

Placement Coordinator

RETURN THE COMPLETED BIRTHING SUPPORT APPLICATION TO THE PLACEMENT COORDINATOR BY: _____
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