



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL HOSPITAL
100 BREWSTER BLVD
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28547-2538

IN REPLY REFER TO
NAVHOSPCAMLEJINST 5800.3D
015
August 11, 2005

NAVHOSPCAMLEJ INSTRUCTION 5800.3D

From: Commanding Officer

Subj: RELEASE OF INFANTS TO APPROVED ADOPTION AGENCIES AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF ADOPTION EXPENSES FOR ACTIVE DUTY
SERVICE MEMBERS

Ref: (a) General Statutes of the State of North Carolina,
Chapter 48
(b) DODI 1341.9

1. Purpose. Implement procedures regarding the release of an infant born at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune (NHCL) to an approved adoption agency.

2. Cancellation. NAVHOSPCAMLEJINST 5800.3C.

3. Background. Adoption arrangements may be made by the expectant parent through the Onslow County Department of Social Services, or through an adoption agency licensed by the State of North Carolina.

4. Adoption Policy. The Naval Hospital involvement in the placement of a child for adoption will be as minimal as possible. Naval Hospital will ensure that upon hospital discharge the adoptive infant is released to a representative legally authorized by the natural parent.

5. Procedures. The following procedures will be strictly adhered to in all placements for adoption cases arising at this facility:

a. Any expectant mother anticipating delivery at this facility or an inpatient mother of a newly delivered infant who expresses to any member of the hospital staff the desire or intention to place her child for adoption will be referred immediately to the Patient Administration Department who will immediately notify the County Department of Social Services as mandated by reference (a). Upon referral of the expectant mother/new mother to the Department of Social Services, there

will be no further participation in the adoption proceedings by the hospital or any member of the hospital staff. In the case of expectant mothers, the pre-admission paperwork will be flagged in order to alert the Labor and Delivery Department staff of the mother's intention upon actual admission.

b. The Head, Patient Administration Department will obtain a Statement of Intent from the expectant mother/new mother during normal working hours. After normal working hours the Statement of Intent (obtained in the Admissions Office) will be processed by the Officer of the Day and cannot be delegated further. The Statement of Intent will be placed in the mother's inpatient record.

c. No child shall be delivered for adoption to an agent, agency, perspective adoptive parent(s), or anyone else except the natural parent(s) unless the attending Obstetrician and attending Pediatrician state in writing by Doctor's Order in the mother's inpatient record, that the normal transfer procedure is impractical and not in the best interest of the mother. In these situations the child may be delivered to another person other than the mother, and the Head, Patient Administration Department will obtain a notarized statement or authorization from the mother designating a representative to receive the infant upon discharge during normal working hours. After normal working hours the notarized statement or authorization (obtained in the Admissions Office) will be processed by the Officer of the Day and cannot be delegated further. This statement will release this facility from any liability and will be placed in the inpatient chart for both the natural mother and infant.

6. Visits/Infant Care. Only the natural mother and nursery staff are allowed to care for the infant. The infant will not be shown to anyone other than the natural parent(s), except with the written permission of the mother. The written documentation will be placed in the infant's inpatient record.

7. Action. The Head, Patient Administration Department, will be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate procedure described in paragraphs 5(a) and 5(b) is followed. The nursing staff is responsible for ensuring that the infant, upon discharge, is released only to the natural mother or the person authorized to assume custody of the infant as stated in the notarized document for release.

8. Adoption by Active Duty Personnel. An active duty member of the military services who adopts a child under 18 years of age and incurs expenses for the adoption of that child may qualify for reimbursement per reference (b).

//SIGNATURE ON FILE//
RICHARD C. WELTON