

At Our Facility

- At some point before the birth of your baby, investigate security measures at the facility where you plan to give birth to your baby. You can request a copy of the facility's written guidelines about procedures for "special care" and security procedures in the maternity/newborn areas. Know all of the facility's procedures in place to safeguard your infant while staying in that facility.
- While it is normal for new parents to be anxious, being watchful over the newborn infant is very important.
- Never leave your infant out of your direct, line-of-sight even when you go to the restroom or take a nap. If you leave the room or plan to go to sleep, call the nurses to take the infant back to the nursery or have a family member watch the baby. When possible, keep the infant's bassinet on the side of your bed away from the door(s) leading out of the room.
- After admission to the facility, ask about the facility's protocols concerning the routine nursery procedures, feeding and visitation hours, and security measures. Do not hesitate to politely ask direct questions and settle for nothing less than an acceptable explanation.
- Become familiar with the staff members who work in the maternity unit. During short stays in the facility, ask to be introduced to the nurse assigned to you and your infant.



ANDERSON
Regional Medical Center

2124 14th Street
Meridian, MS 39301
601.553.6000

www.andersonregional.org

Important numbers for Special Beginnings — The Center for Childbirth Nursery:

601.553.0123

Security:

Anderson - North: 601.553.6000

Anderson - South: 601.484.3214



Keeping Your Baby Safe: What Parents Need to Know



*Special Beginnings —
The Center for Childbirth*

Be Safe; Be Smart

While we use strict guidelines to ensure the safety of your newborn, the information in this brochure provides good, sound parenting techniques that can also help prevent abduction of infants while in the hospital and once you take your baby home.

The information in this brochure is provided by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.



At Our Facility

- Do not give your infant to anyone without properly verified identification as issued by that facility. Find out what additional or special identification is being worn to further identify facility personnel who have authority to transport your infant. Speak to a person in authority (e.g., unit director, charge nurse) if you have any questions or concerns. Be sure everyone who is helping you watch your infant while you are in the facility understands these safeguards and does not release your infant to any unauthorized person.
- Question unfamiliar persons entering your room or inquiring about your infant — even if they are in the facility's attire or seem to have a reason for being there. Immediately alert the nurses' station.
- Determine where your infant will be when taken for tests and how long the tests will take. Find out who has authorized the tests. If you are uncomfortable with anyone who requests to take your infant or unable to clarify what testing is being done or why your infant is being taken from your room, it is appropriate to go with your infant. Or if you are unable to accompany your infant, have a family member go along.
- For your records to take home, have at least one color photograph of your infant (full, front-face view) taken along with footprints and compile a complete written description of your infant including hair and eye color, length, weight, date of birth and specific physical characteristics.

At Our Facility & At Home

- You may receive follow-up visits for yourself or your baby. Do not allow anyone into your home who says he/she is affiliated with a facility without proper identification as issued by that facility.
- Consider the risk you may be taking when permitting your infant's birth announcement to be published in the newspaper or online. Birth announcements should never include the family's home address and be limited to the parents' surname(s). In general, birth announcements in newspapers are not endorsed by most experts.
- Use caution in creating websites for your infant or posting photographs of your infant on websites. When doing so limit access to those you know personally and trust. To limit anyone else's potential misuse of a photograph of your infant, carefully consider anyone's request to take a picture of your infant and only share photographs of your infant with those you know personally and trust.

At Home

- The use of outdoor announcements such as signs, balloons, large floral wreaths and other lawn ornaments are not recommended to announce a birth because they call attention to the presence of a new infant in the home.
- Only allow persons into your home who are well-known to you. Be cautious if you choose to allow anyone into your home who is just a mere or recent acquaintance or known only online through social networking websites, chatrooms and forums, especially if met briefly since you became pregnant or gave birth to your infant. The bottom line is, the infant's family is the domestic security team and all family members should be cautious about your baby's security even after going home.

In Public Places

- If you must take your infant out, whenever possible, take a trusted friend or family member with you as an extra set of hands and eyes to protect and constantly observe the infant. Never leave a child alone in a motor vehicle. Always take the child with you. Never let someone you don't know pick up or hold your child.

