



MONTANA WOMEN'S PRISON OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

Procedure:	MWP 4.5.23b INMATE CHILDBIRTH	
Effective Date:	12/06/2007	Page 1 of 2
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Signature/Title:	/s/ John Schaffer, Public Safety Division Chief	

I. PURPOSE

Ensure that inmates giving birth during their incarceration are given support while maintaining the safety and security of the inmate and the general public.

II. PROCESSES

A. Shift Supervisor Duties

1. Contact parenting staff any time an expectant inmate is sent to the hospital. Contact should be made even if the inmate is not near the due date or it is undecided whether or not the inmate is in labor but is experiencing complications from the pregnancy.
2. When an expectant inmate is taken to the hospital, notify the Parenting Program Supervisor.

B. Health Care Staff Duty

1. Notify Parenting Program Supervisor of any issues that might send an expectant inmate to the hospital, especially during the work week. Leave a message on extension 5146.

C. Parenting Staff Duties

1. May bring the following to the hospital:
 - a. Digital camera
 - b. Disposable camera
 - c. Outfit for the baby to leave the hospital in
 - d. Hygiene kit with disposable items
 - e. 1 baby blanket

1) Note: The inmate may be returning to MWP with 1 baby blanket.
2. Must be familiar with *MWP 4.5.23a Hospital Procedures*.
3. Notifies the Shift Supervisor and the Hospital Officer of any potential security risks posed by family members and/or deviations from normal hospital duty protocol.

D. Emergency Health Care or Correctional Staff Duties

1. Facility health care providers and correctional staff will provide offender emergency health care or transport in accordance with *DOC 4.5.20 Emergency Medical Services*.

E. Transporting Officer(s) Duties

1. Ensure that the expectant inmate brings the baby's book, blanket, and journal to the hospital.
2. Notify hospital staff not to release any information about the inmate's or baby's presence at the hospital.
3. At no time will officers hold or assist in the feeding of a baby.

4. Officers must contact medical staff if the inmate needs assistance.
5. Restraints are handcuffs, leg shackles, leg irons, belly belts, belly chains, or other restraint devices used to restrict free movement of limbs or appendages, including restraints made of cloth and leather.
 - a. During labor, the inmate will not be placed in restraints unless an extraordinary circumstance exists. Extraordinary circumstances include a determination from the Shift Supervisor in consultation with the Warden that:
 - 1) the inmate is an established flight risk; or
 - 2) there is a clear threat that the inmate could harm themselves or others.
 - b. Leg or waist restraints may not be used on a pregnant inmate during any stage of labor and delivery under any circumstances.
 - c. Both the type of restraint applied and the application of the restraint must be done in the least restrictive manner necessary.
 - d. Restraints must be removed under the following circumstances:
 - 1) when the flight risk or threat of harm has been mitigated; or
 - 2) at the request of a doctor, nurse, or health care professional treating the inmate during labor and delivery.
6. Officers will not allow:
 - a. the inmate to have visits unless approved by MWP Command personnel; or
 - b. inmate family to be at the hospital visiting the baby unless approved by MWP Command personnel.

III. CLOSING

Questions about this procedure should be directed to the Shift Supervisor or the Associate Warden of Security.

IV. REFERENCES

- A. *Title 7, Chapter 32, Part 22, MCA*
- B. *DOC 4.5.20; DOC 4.5.23; MWP 4.5.23a*