

## Adoption

### Guidelines for care of infant to be relinquished by birth mother

#### Purpose:

To establish an adoption process that is consistent with IHS regulations, provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and National Child Welfare Standards. All referrals and inquiries on adoption will be directed to Social Services department within ANMC.

#### Protocol:

1. The Obstetrical nursing staff identifies adoption issues in prenatal and admission screening and assessment processes.
2. Nursing will make referral to Social Services for adoption process.
3. Referrals may be initiated by the nursing personnel upon mother's admission, followed by or accompanied by a provider's order for a consult. Upon birth of infant, Social Services will be contacted by nursing personnel.
4. Nursing follows up on status of adoption plans and discharge plans for patient and newborn with Social Services as indicated.
5. ANMC encourages birth mother to stay at ANMC until discharge of infant, as they are decision makers for the infant.
6. Nursery personnel review all instructions, vaccination schedule, and other pertinent information with the birth parent and/or adoptive parents as appropriate. Discharge forms may be signed by adoptive parents as per "Release of Minor to Other Than Parent" form provided by Social Service.
7. The birth mother will complete birth certificate packet prior to discharge.
8. Discharge newborn to the birth mother or as per birth parent's direction. Obtain signature on "Release of Minor To Other Than Parent" form, and scan into baby's Electronic Health Record.
9. If birth mother cannot/will not stay until baby is discharged Social Services is notified to initiate "Special Power of Attorney" forms as per ANMC Office of Regulatory Compliance (formerly Risk Management).

#### REFERENCES:

ANMC Hospital Adoption Policy #102A  
ANMC Hospital Adoption Procedure #102A

Revised: Apr 07, Dec 11

Reviewed Jun 12, Jul 15