

## Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

This act revises the education and orientation requirements for birth centers and their families to incorporate safe sleep practices and causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death. It also makes legislative findings with respect to the sudden unexpected death of an infant under a specified age, as well as defines the term “Sudden Unexpected Infant Death”, and includes other provisions relating to training requirements for first responders and health professionals.

Submitted as:

Florida

[SB 56](#)

Status: Signed into law on May 30, 2013.

### Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

- 1 Section 1. [*Short Title*] Sudden Unexpected Infant Death.  
2
- 3 Section 2. [*Education and Orientation for birth center clients and their families.*]  
4 (1) The clients shall be prepared for childbirth and childbearing by education in:  
5 (a) The care of the newborn to include safe sleep practices and the possible causes of Sudden  
6 Unexpected Infant Death.  
7
- 8 Section 3. [*Postpartum care for birth center clients and infants.*]  
9 (1) Postpartum evaluation and followup care shall be provided, which shall include:  
10 (a) Instruction in child care, including immunization, and breastfeeding, safe sleep practices,  
11 and possible causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death.  
12
- 13 Section 4. [*Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome.*]  
14 (1) Findings and Intent.  
15 (2) Definition. As used in this section, the term “Sudden Unexpected Infant Death,” or “SUID,”  
16 means the sudden unexpected death of an infant under 1 year of age while in apparent good  
17 health whose death may have been a result of natural or unnatural causes.  
18 (3) Training.  
19 (a) The Legislature finds that an emergency medical technician, a paramedic, a firefighter, or  
20 a law enforcement officer is likely to be the first responder to a request for assistance  
21 which is made immediately after the sudden unexpected death of an infant. The  
22 Legislature further finds that these first responders should be trained in appropriate  
23 responses to sudden infant death.  
24 (b) The basic training programs required for certification as an emergency medical  
25 technician, a paramedic, a firefighter, or a law enforcement officer as defined in [Insert  
26 citation] other than a correctional officer or a correctional probation officer, must include  
27 curriculum that contains instruction on SUID.  
28 (c) The [Department of Health], in consultation with the [Emergency Medical Services  
29 Advisory Council], the [Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council], the

1 child protection teams established in the [Division of Children’s Medical Services], and  
2 the [Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission], shall adopt and modify when  
3 necessary, by rule, curriculum that is as part of the Centers for Disease Control SUID  
4 Initiative which must be followed by law enforcement agencies in investigating cases  
5 involving sudden deaths of infants, and training in responding appropriately to the  
6 parents or caretakers who have requested assistance.

7 (4) Autopsies.

8 (a) The death of any infant younger than 1 year of age who dies suddenly and unexpectedly  
9 while in apparent good health falls under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner as  
10 provided in [Insert citation.] The autopsy must be performed within 24 hours after the  
11 death, or as soon thereafter as is feasible.

12 (b) The [Medical Examiners Commission] shall provide for the development and  
13 implementation of a protocol for the forensic investigation of SUID. The protocol may  
14 include requirements and standards for scene investigations, requirements for specific  
15 data, criteria for any specific tissue sampling, and any other requirements that are deemed  
16 necessary.

17 (c) A medical examiner is not liable for damages in a civil action for any act or omission  
18 done in compliance with this subsection.

19  
20 (5) Department Duties Relating to Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID).—The [Department  
21 of Health], in consultation with the child protection teams established in the [Division of  
22 Children’s Medical Services], shall:

23 (a) Collaborate with other agencies in the development and presentation of the SUID training  
24 programs for first responders, including those for emergency medical technicians and  
25 paramedics, firefighters, and law enforcement officers.

26 (b) Maintain a database of statistics on reported SUID deaths, and analyze the data as funds  
27 allow.

28 (c) Serve as liaison and closely coordinate activities with the [Florida SIDS Alliance].

29 (d) Maintain a library reference list and materials about SUID for public dissemination.

30 (e) Provide professional support to field staff.

31 (f) Coordinate the activities of and promote a link between the fetal and infant mortality  
32 review committees of the local healthy start coalitions, the [Florida SIDS Alliance], and  
33 other related support groups.

34  
35 Section 5. [*Postpartum education.*]

36 A hospital that provides birthing services shall incorporate information on safe sleep practices  
37 and the possible causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death into the hospital’s postpartum  
38 instruction on the care of newborns.

39  
40 Section 6. [*Severability.*] Insert severability clause.

41  
42 Section 7. [*Repealer.*] Insert repealer clause.

43  
44 Section 8. [*Effective Date.*] Insert effective date.