FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **Contact:** AHCA Communications Office
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Agency for Health Care Administration Takes Steps to Prevent Unsafe Sleep Deaths

Tallahassee, FL – The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) has teamed up with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to combat preventable sleep-related deaths in infants and newborns.

Unsafe sleep is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths for children under three years of age. The Agency is working with other Florida government entities to champion the 'Safe Sleep Campaign', in an effort to raise public awareness that the safest way for babies to sleep is **alone, on their back, and in a crib**.

The 'Safe Sleep Campaign' provides free online training and materials for Florida's first responders and encourages the public to donate portable cribs for those in need.

"We are always excited to hear about new resources that support the well-being of Florida's children," said Agency Secretary Elizabeth Dudek. "Preventable tragedies relating to unsafe sleep are all too common - that's why we're 100% behind the 'Safe Sleep Campaign' which is providing parents with the tools and resources to make safer sleep environments for their babies and potentially save lives."

"The Department of Children and Families is committed to ending preventable child fatalities in Florida. Our Safe Sleep Campaign targets one of the leading causes – unsafe sleep practices," DCF Secretary Mike Carroll, said. "We are excited about the partnership with AHCA aimed at increasing education and awareness for new parents on the safest way for babies to sleep."

To learn more about the resources available to caregivers and how sleep-related deaths can be prevented, please visit the **Safe Sleep Campaign website.**

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at FloridaHealthFinder.gov. For more information about the health information exchange, please visit http://www.fhin.net/ or https://www.florida-hie.net.

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