

ABANDONED BABIES NEWBORN SAFETY ACT



If a parent wishing to leave a newborn at a fire station approaches any fire department employee, the employee will immediately bring the newborn, with parent if possible, inside the fire station.



PROCEDURE:

1. Assure the parent that there is no need to provide any identifying information in order to leave the newborn at this location, and that the fire department personnel want to ensure the health and safety of both the parent and the newborn. Also, advise the parent that the law provides protection from criminal liability for leaving the child at the location.
2. Notify fire department EMS personnel if the person who has accepted the transferred newborn is not EMS certified. EMS personnel will notify appropriate authorities. If on duty crew are not available, call 911.
3. Accept the newborn from the parent. Assess the need for emergency intervention. Assign incident number. The incident number should be the medical incident record number (electronic or written) that is generated by the EMS provider. Write a “receipt” with the number, date, the parent’s name (if volunteered), the provider name, and hospital destination, and give it to the parent.
4. Assign the appropriate triage category for medical care. This category is determined by the highest level of prehospital care provider available and depends on infant’s and parent’s needs.
5. Provide the parent information packet immediately, in case the parent leaves the facility prior to interview (**See Parent Information Packet**).
6. Interview the parent immediately to obtain as much prenatal/birth/medical history as possible, regardless of the triage category assigned. Use the **Medical and Social History Form** to guide the interview. If the parent is unwilling to provide information at this time, encourage completion and return to the fire station of the medical/social history form included in the Parent Information Packet.

7. Encourage the parent to complete the “**Parental Message to the Newborn**” found in the Parent Information Packet.
8. Notify your Chief/EMS Officer/Administrator.
9. Offer treatment to the parent as indicated in the following Care of the Parent section.
10. Inform online medical control of newborn and mother (if mother is the parent leaving the infant), consistent with assigned triage category. This should be done via telephone (cellular or landline) whenever possible, in the interest of maintaining the parent’s anonymity.
11. Report incident to **Child Protective Services (CPS)** at **(509) 363-3333** (press 9 after recording starts) as soon as possible.
12. Transfer newborn by ambulance (or staff vehicle if the infant does not need medical attention en route and the vehicle is equipped with an infant seat) to the nearest Hospital Emergency Department for observation/treatment or while awaiting CPS.

CARE OF THE PARENT:

1. If the parent leaving the newborn is, or appears to be, the newborn’s mother, offer/encourage a medical screening examination and any indicated treatment to ensure postpartum stability. Protect the mother’s anonymity during the examination and treatment (i.e., patient is entered into the system as “Jane Doe”).
2. Give the parent a copy of the Parent Information Packet. Encourage the parent to complete and return the packet, including any medical/social history information not obtained during the interview.

FOLLOW UP:

Requests for information about the infant’s medical condition and status should be referred to the hospital or CPS.