



## *Section 1: Administrative / Medical Control*

### **GUIDELINE/PROCEDURES: NEWBORN ABANDONMENT**

Ohio law provides that a parent may drop-off a newborn baby within the first 30 days at any Law Enforcement Agency, Hospital, or Emergency Medical Service. Should this occur, the first priority is to care for the infant's health and safety. Notification should then be made to the Public Children's Services agency for that county. If possible, obtain any medical information that may be available. If it appears that the infant has suffered any type of physical harm, attempts should be made to detain the person who delivered the child.

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide:

- Protection to infants that are placed into the custody of EMS under this law
- Protection to EMS systems and personnel when confronted with this issue

#### **PROCEDURE**

1. Initiate the Pediatric Assessment Procedure.
2. Initiate other treatment protocols as appropriate.
3. Keep infant warm.
4. Contact Medical Control as soon as infant is stabilized.
5. Transport infant to medical facility as per local protocol.
6. Assure infant is secured in appropriate child restraint device for transport.
7. Document protocols, procedures, and agency notifications.

The following website is a good reference: [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)