



North Region EMS System

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Purpose

To comply with the Illinois Legislature Public Act 92-0408. The act is intended to provide a mechanism for a newborn infant to be relinquished to a safe environment and for the parents of the infant to remain anonymous if they choose and to avoid civil or criminal liability for the act of relinquishing the infant.

Policy

1. Definitions
 - a. Newborn infant: means a child who a licensed physician reasonably believes is 30 days old or less at the time the child is initially relinquished to a hospital, police station, fire station, or emergency medical facility and who is not an abused or a neglected child.
 - b. Relinquish: means to bring a newborn infant, who a licensed physician reasonably believes is 30 days old or less, to a hospital, police station, fire station, or emergency medical facility and to leave the infant with personnel of the facility, if the person leaving the infant does not express an intent to return for the infant or states that they will not return for the infant.
 - c. Department or DCFS: means the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.
2. The act of relinquishing a newborn infant serves as implied consent for the fire station or emergency medical facility and its emergency medical professionals to treat and provide care for the infant.
 - a. Initiate necessary emergency treatment per SOP under implied consent and contact online medical control.
 - b. Ensure that the infant is kept warm and transported to the nearest System hospital, secured appropriately in an infant car seat or pediatric restraining device.
 - c. Complete a patient care report on the infant. List the infant's name as "Baby Girl or Baby Boy " if it is unknown.
3. After relinquishing a newborn infant to a fire station or emergency medical facility, the fire station emergency medical facility's personnel must arrange for the transportation of the infant to the nearest hospital.
4. If the parent of a newborn infant returns to reclaim the child within 72 hours after relinquishing the child to a fire station or emergency medical facility, the fire station or emergency medical facility must inform the parent of the name and location of the hospital to which the infant was transported.
5. If there is suspected child abuse or neglect that is not based solely on the newborn infant's relinquishment to a police station, fire station, or emergency medical facility, the personnel of the police station, fire station, or emergency medical facility who are mandated reporters under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act must report the abuse or neglect. See North Region EMS System policy PC 102 Abuse/Neglect Victims: Child, Domestic, Elder.
6. A fire station or emergency medical facility that receives a newborn infant relinquished must offer an information packet to the relinquishing person and, if



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possible, must inform the relinquishing person that their acceptance of the information is entirely voluntary. The information packet must include all of the following:

- a. Written notice of the following:
 - i. No sooner than 60 days after the initial relinquishment of the infant to a hospital, police station, fire station, or emergency medical facility, the child-placing agency or the Department will commence proceedings for the termination of parental rights and placement of the infant for adoption.
 - ii. Failure of a parent of the infant to contact the Department and petition for the return of custody of the infant before termination of parental rights bars any future action asserting legal rights with respect to the infant.
 - iii. A resource list of providers of counseling services, including grief counseling, pregnancy counseling, and counseling regarding adoption and other available options for placement of the infant.
 - iv. A brochure (with a self-mailer attached) that describes this Act and the rights of birth parents, including an optional section for the parent to complete and mail to the Department of Children and Family Services, that shall ask for basic anonymous background information about the relinquished child.
 - v. A brochure that describes the Illinois Adoption Registry, including a tollfree number and website information.
 - vi. A brochure describing postpartum health information for the mother.

References

(325 ILCS 2/) Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1459&ChapterID=32>

Attachment

none

Evert Gerritsen
EMS System Administrator/Coordinator

Michael I. Peters, MD
EMS Medical Director

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