

	<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTHERN FOX VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM POLICY &amp; PROCEDURES</p>				
<p>TITLE: ABANDONED INFANT PROTECTION ACT</p>					
<p>SECTION: GENERAL</p>			<p>POLICY NUMBER: D-27.0</p>		
<p>APPROVED BY: DR. ARTHUR PROUST EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR</p>					
<p>EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/18/2014</p>				<p>PAGE NUMBER: 1 OF 2</p>	

**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines for compliance with Illinois law regarding “Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act of 2001”

**DEFINITION:**

1. Relinquished Infant: According to the Act, an infant is relinquished if:
  - a. The infant has been left with personnel of a hospital, manned fire station or emergency medical facility by a parent who does not express an intent to return for the infant or states that he/she will not return for the infant: and
  - b. A licensed physician reasonably believes that the infant is 30 days old or less: and
  - c. The infant is NOT abused or neglected (defined in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act)
2. Relinquishing Person: The relinquishing person is presumed to be the infant’s biological parent.

**POLICY:**

1. Assess the child keeping the newborn warm and dry.
2. If relinquishing parent present:
  - a. EMS personnel must verbally inform the parent that by relinquishing the infant anonymously, he/she will have to petition the court to prevent the termination of parental rights and regain custody of the child.
  - b. EMS personnel must offer the relinquishing parent a: “Relinquishing Parent Packet”; and if possible, clearly inform the parent that:
    - i. His/her acceptance of the information is completely voluntary.

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- ii. Completion of the Illinois Adoption Registration form and Medical Information Exchange form is voluntary.
    - iii. A denial of information exchange form may be completed which would allow the relinquishing parent to remain anonymous to the infant and other parties involved in the infant's subsequent adoption.
    - iv. The parent may provide only medical information and remain anonymous.
    - v. There are to be NO fees charged. Any reference in the information packet is waived.
  - c. You must document on the pre-hospital run form that the information packet was or was not offered and if it was or was not accepted by the relinquishing parent.
  - d. All completed forms given to EMS by the relinquishing parent MUST accompany the infant to the hospital and be given to the charge nurse or MD, to be mailed to the Department of Public Health.
3. EMS will transport an abandoned infant whether there is a presence of a relinquished parent to the closest System Hospital.
  4. EMS personnel MUST examine the infant and provide emergency care if needed. A pre-hospital run report must be completed. The act of relinquishing the infant serves as implied consent. All reimbursement will be made through Public Aid.
  5. The hospital WILL take temporary custody of the infant.
  6. EMS personnel must notify DCFS that a newborn has been relinquished "under the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act". 1-800-252-2873. DCFS notification MUST be done within 12 hours. Placement of the infant will be through DCFS.
  7. Anonymity and Immunity of the relinquishing parent.
    - a. If there is no outward evidence of abuse or neglect, the parent has the right to remain anonymous and leave the infant with the pre-hospital provider. If at any time abuse of neglect is suspected or discovered it MUST be reported.
  8. . If the relinquishing parent returns to reclaim the child within 72 hours, the receiving EMS agency shall inform the parent to which hospital the newborn infant was transported.
  9. The EMS system and all EMS personnel are immune from criminal or civil liability for acting in good faith under the Act but remain liable for negligent care and medical treatment.

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