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# CHAMPAIGN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## POLICY and PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 44.5

SUBJECT: ABANDONED NEWBORN INFANT PROTECTION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/09

REVISED DATE:

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REFERENCE ILEAP:

INDEX AS:

44.5.1 RELINQUISHED NEWBORNS  
44.5.2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the Department to follow in the event an infant is abandoned at the Champaign Police Department. The Department will act in accordance with 325 ILCS 2/, Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.

DEFINITIONS:

**Newborn Infant:** A child who a licensed physician reasonably believes to be 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.

**Relinquish:** To bring a newborn infant, who a licensed physician reasonably believes to be 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 he or she will not return for the infant.

**Temporary Protective Custody:** The temporary placement of a newborn infant within a hospital or other medical facility out of the custody of the infant's parent.

POLICY:

### 44.5.1 RELINQUISHED NEWBORNS

- A. All employees must accept a newborn infant brought to the police station for the purpose of relinquishing an infant in accordance with the provisions of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.
- B. An ambulance will immediately be called to transport the infant to a hospital for medical examination and a supervisor will be notified. The supervisor shall promptly notify the on-call supervisor from the Investigations Division.
- C. Relinquishing a newborn infant does not, by itself, constitute a basis for a finding of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of the infant pursuant to the laws of this state nor does it, by itself, constitute a violation of the Criminal Code of 1961.
- D. Neither a child protective investigation nor a criminal investigation may be initiated solely because a newborn infant is relinquished under the provisions of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. An

investigation may only be initiated when there is clear evidence of abuse or neglect.

- E. If there is clear evidence of abuse or neglect, a criminal investigation may begin and the incident must be reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.
- F. If there is no evidence of abuse or neglect of the relinquished newborn infant, the person relinquishing the newborn has the right to remain anonymous and to leave the police station at any time and not to be questioned, pursued, or followed.
- G. Before the person relinquishing the newborn infant leaves the building, the employee accepting the infant shall attempt to solicit, voluntarily, the identity of the individual. The employee will also verbally inform the person that by relinquishing the child anonymously, he or she will have to petition the court if they desire to prevent the termination of their parental rights and regain custody of the child.
- H. The employee will offer the person relinquishing the newborn infant an information packet supplied by the Department of Public Health containing application forms for the Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange, including the Medical Information Exchange Questionnaire and the web site address and toll-free phone number of the Illinois Adoption Registry, explaining that acceptance of the packet is voluntary. Information packets will be maintained at the front desk.
- I. If the person wishes to provide their name and fill out the application provided in the Illinois Department of Public Health information packet, they may do so and request that the Department forward them to the Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange.
- J. If the parent of the newborn infant returns to claim the infant within 72 hours after relinquishing the infant to the Department, the parent shall be informed of the name and location of the hospital to which the infant was transported.

### 44.5.2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. If there is no evidence of abuse or neglect of the relinquished newborn infant, a report of the incident will be written using UCR code 1755, CHILD ABANDONMENT. In addition, and in all cases, notification shall be made to the DCFS Hotline (1-800-55ABUSE) within 12 hours of accepting a relinquished newborn.
- B. If there is clear evidence of abuse or neglect, a report of the incident will be written using the proper criminal offense UCR code for the appropriate criminal incident.

- C. Employees acting in good faith in accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act are immune from criminal or civil liability.

ISSUING AUTHORITY



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Champaign Police Department