P.O. 233 Safe Haven Law-Infants			
Effective From:	07/25/2025	Effective To:	Current

P.O. 233 – Safe Haven Law-Infants

1. PURPOSE
   - i) The intent of this policy is to provide guidance pursuant to Chapter 13, Articles 1149-1161 of the Louisiana Children's Code, Safe Haven Relinquishments. This law designates a police station as a designated emergency care facility.
2. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES
   - i) Troop/Section Commanders shall ensure the availability of employees who are knowledgeable about the Safe Haven requirements.
   - ii) Troop Commanders shall make prior arrangements to select a hospital in their area to receive a relinquished child. Other section employees should contact the Troop for directions on which hospital to utilize.
   - iii) Procedures for transporting the child to the hospital should be established by each troop.
3. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
   - i) In the event an officer makes contact with the relinquishing parent, the relinquishing parent shall be asked to voluntarily provide information about any prenatal care and the name of the other parent.
   - ii) The officer shall provide the relinquishing parent with the Safe Haven Card.
   - iii) The officer shall provide to the parent written information about:
     - a) How to contact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) should the parent later have questions about the relinquishment or the voluntary medical and genetic history information;
     - b) The availability of counseling services;
     - c) The right of the parent to file a claim and be heard in accordance with Chapter 13, Articles 1156 and 1157.
     - d) The right of the parent to use the services of the voluntary registry in accordance with Chapter 15 of Title XII.
   - iv) When an infant is relinquished to an officer, the officer shall immediately transfer the infant to the hospital.
   - v) The officer shall immediately notify the DCFS of the relinquishment.
   - vi) Absent evidence of willful or intentional misconduct or gross negligence in carrying out these responsibilities, the officer shall be immune from civil and criminal liability in any legal action arising from the examination, testing, care, and treatment of the infant.