

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor



Erwin McEwen
Director

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

June 6, 2008

Re: Placement and Display of Safe Haven Signs

Dear Hospital Administrator:

As you may be aware, in August 2007, the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (325 ILCS 2/22) instituted new requirements regarding the posting of signs. The Act provides for prominently displayed signs outside of every authorized relinquishment site, i.e. Safe Haven, including hospitals and emergency medical facilities. The Department of Children and Family Services is charged with prescribing specifications for the signs and their placement to ensure statewide uniformity.

The Department has determined that the law requires the following:

- Hospitals and emergency medical facilities must post at least one sign in a conspicuous place outside of the hospital building.
- Signs will ideally be affixed directly to the exterior of the hospital building.
- The signs should be posted directly adjacent to the most commonly used entrance to the hospital's Emergency Room.
- Signs shall be visible to the public from the street or the driveway/roadway to the hospital for vehicles.
- Hospitals may exercise discretion in determining the most obvious position of the sign, considering the unique factors of each building, as long as the sign is clearly associated to a specific well-marked hospital Emergency Room entrance.
- Hospitals must use signs that are precisely consistent with the size, graphic design, and materials utilized by the Department and Save Abandoned Babies Foundation. Signs are 18" x 18" and made with 3M Scotchlite vinyl on aluminum.
- Signs may be purchased from the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation for a nominal fee of \$30 by contacting the Foundation at www.SaveAbandonedBabies.org, by phone at 773-343-3278, or by facsimile at 773-267-7854.
- Signs will be available in Spanish.
- Hospitals that had signs posted prior to the effective date of the amendment (8-17-07) may keep their signs if they conform to the requirements as stated herein and are not required to post any additional signs.

Thank you for your participation in our efforts to ensure the safety of children in Illinois.

Sincerely,


Erwin McEwen, Director

Office of the Director
100 West Randolph Street, 6th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-814-2074 • 312-814-1888 Fax

