

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor



Erwin McEwen
Director

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

June 18, 2008

Re: Placement and Display of Safe Haven Signs

Dear Law Enforcement Professional:

As you may be aware, in August 2007, the Illinois 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, e.g. Safe Haven, including all municipal police stations and county sheriff's offices. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services ("Department") is charged with prescribing specifications for the signs and their placement to ensure statewide uniformity.

The Department has determined that the Safe Haven law requires the following:

- Each police station and sheriff's office must post at least one sign in a conspicuous place outside of the station building.
- Signs will ideally be affixed directly to the exterior of the building.
- The signs should be posted directly adjacent to the most commonly used entrance or exit to the police station or sheriff's office.
- Signs shall be visible to the public from the street or the driveway/roadway to the station for vehicles.
- Police stations and sheriff's offices 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 station entrance/exit.
- Police stations and sheriff's offices 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.
- Police stations and sheriff's offices that are not open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, must have signs that state "Only When Staff Members Are Present." Signs purchased after the date of this letter will all include this language. In addition, if a sign is already posted that does not state "Only When Staff Members Are Present," it can be printed on reflective tape and affixed directly to an existing sign. The reflective tape is available from the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation.
- Signs may be purchased from the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation for a nominal fee 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.
- Police stations and sheriff's offices that are open 24/7 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.

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



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