

Fire Station Protocol

Subject: Compliance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act

I. PURPOSE

This Order:

1. establishes procedures, consistent with the mandates of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (the Act), to be followed in the event that an infant is abandoned at a firehouse;
2. ensures compliance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act; and
3. becomes effective immediately.

II. POLICY

1. The Illinois General Assembly has created the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (the Act) that establishes procedures to be followed when a parent relinquishes a newborn infant to a hospital, police station or other designated facility. The Act specifically designates firehouses as such a "facility" under the Act.
2. The Act is intended to enable the parent(s) of a newborn to relinquish the infant to a safe environment, to remain anonymous, and to avoid civil or criminal liability for relinquishing the infant.
3. Pursuant to the Act, the staff member in every firehouse in the State of Illinois that is presented with a relinquishment must:
 1. Accept and provide all necessary emergency services and care to a relinquished newborn infant, in accordance with this Act;
 2. Arrange for the transportation of a relinquished infant to the nearest hospital as soon as possible;
 3. Inform the parent(s) of the name and location of the hospital to which the infant was transported, if the parent returns to the fire station within 30 days after relinquishing the infant;
 4. Allow the relinquishing parent to remain anonymous and to leave the firehouse without being pursued provided that the infant shows no sign of abuse or neglect;
 5. Tell the parent that by relinquishing the infant, he/she will have to petition the court if he/she wants to prevent the termination of parental rights and retain custody;
 6. Attempt to offer the parent(s) an [information packet](#) containing prescribed materials.

III. PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All department personnel shall be trained with respect to the requirements of the Act as they apply to the Fire Department. Additional personnel shall be trained as necessary.
2. All officers and supervisors shall be responsible for the following procedures set forth in this Order.
3. Chiefs will facilitate the distribution of information packets to each firehouse, as required by the Act.
4. In the event that a parent comes to a firehouse for the purpose of relinquishing an infant, pursuant to the Act, personnel shall adhere to the following procedures:
 1. The company officer shall contact dispatch to request an ambulance and field officer, and shall advise dispatch that the company will be on an ambulance assist run until the ambulance and field officer arrive at the firehouse;
 2. The company officer shall orally advise the parent that by relinquishing the infant, he/she will have to petition the court if he/she wants prevent the termination of parental rights and regain custody;
 3. The officer should try to give the packet if he/she was the staff member that accepted the relinquishment which includes all the information required by the Act;
 4. The company officer shall make a record of the event in the company journal and specifically include the name and address of the hospital to which the infant is transported;
 5. The chief officer will oversee the evaluation and transport of the infant to the nearest medically appropriate hospital;
 6. If the parent elects to complete adoption registry forms contained in the information packet at the time of relinquishment they shall be forwarded to Department Headquarters;
 7. After the infant has been transported to the hospital, the field officer shall contact dispatch and request that the department head be notified that an infant was relinquished at a firehouse. The department head will be responsible for making required notifications to the state officials, forwarding completed adoption registry forms to the appropriate state office and maintaining all documentation of the incident;
 8. The chief officer shall prepare an EMS Incident report and obtain a copy of the MICU Report which should be forwarded to the department head.