

# SAMPLE POLICY FOR SAFE HAVEN LOCATIONS

## PURPOSE

This policy is applicable to all personnel taking possession of an abandoned newborn infant under Nevada's "Safe Haven" law at this location.

This guideline is in compliance with requirements of Nevada Statute 432B.630 as it relates to the unconditional acceptance of an abandoned newborn infant. This encourages parents who decide to abandon their newborns to do so in a safe manner.

Under NRS 432B.630, a newborn infant will be considered as any child who is or appears to be not more than 30 days old at the time the child is surrendered.

## PROCEDURE

### WHEN TO ACCEPT AN INFANT

- A. Staff shall take immediate possession of a child who is or appears to be not more than 30 days old when:
  - 1. The child is voluntarily delivered to the provider by a parent of the child
  - 2. The parent does not express intent to return for the child.
  - 3. When the child is delivered to the department by another emergency agency.

### WHAT TO DO AFTER ACCEPTING THE INFANT

- B. The person accepting the infant will consider the actions, in Part A, as implied consent and will:
  - 1. **PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:** Personnel accepting infants will provide emergency medical services to the newborn within their scope of practice.
  - 2. **TRANSPORT OR PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO HOSPITAL OR OTHER EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY** – Upon acceptance of the infant and provision of any emergency medical care, personnel will transport or arrange for the prompt transportation of the newborn to the nearest hospital, obstetric center, or an independent center for emergency medical care licensed under chapter 449 of NRS.
  - 3. **ASK THE PARENT SURRENDERING THE INFANT TO PROVIDE SOME BASIC MEDICAL HISTORY ON THE CHILD** - For medical purposes, attempt to obtain any information regarding identity or medical background of parent and/or child. (Utilize the "Newborn Medical History Form" –

Appendix B and forward to the hospital or other medical care center where the infant is transported).

\*\*\***REMEMBER** that parents surrendering an infant may provide medical information but is not required to do so and as long as the infant does not appear to have been abused or neglected, the parent:

- a. Must not be REQUIRED to disclose identifying information but may voluntarily do so
- b. Must be allowed to leave at any time; and
- c. Must not be pursued or followed

**4. NOTIFY THE LOCAL CHILD WELFARE AGENCY AND LAW**

**ENFORCEMENT** - As soon as reasonably practicable but not later than 24 hours after the provider takes possession of the child, report that possession to an agency which provides child welfare services and, if the provider is not a law enforcement agency, to a law enforcement agency.

5. (***For law enforcement only***) The law enforcement agency shall notify the Clearinghouse and investigate further, if necessary, using any other resources to determine whether the child has been reported as a missing child. Upon conclusion of the investigation, the law enforcement agency shall inform the agency which provides child welfare services of its determination. The agency which provides child welfare services shall maintain that information for statistical and research purposes.

**WHAT CAN THE PARENTS EXPECT**

- C. Except where there is actual or suspected child abuse or neglect, any parent who leaves a newborn infant at a safe haven:
1. Shall be deemed to have given consent to the performance of all necessary emergency services and care for the child.
  2. Must not be required to provide any background or medical information regarding the child, but may voluntarily do so. (Utilize the “Newborn Medical History Form” – Appendix B)
  3. Must be allowed to leave at any time.
  4. Must not be pursued or followed.
- D. Whenever possible, inform the parent of the child that:
1. By allowing the provider to take possession of the child, the parent is presumed to have abandoned the child.
  2. By failing or refusing to provide an address where they can be located, the parent waives any notice of the hearing to terminate parental rights pursuant to NRS 432B.470.

3. Unless a parent contacts the local agency that provides welfare services, action will be taken to terminate the parental rights regarding the child.