

SAFE HAVEN FOR NEWBORN BABIES

OVERVIEW

- A. A parent may voluntarily deliver a neonate, up to 30 days old, to an EMS worker, peace officer or hospital without expressing an intent to return for the neonate. Upon doing this, the parent is protected from criminal prosecution and may remain anonymous if the neonate has not been harmed or neglected in any way. If the neonate has been harmed or neglected, the parent can be arrested and prosecuted. (ORC 2151.3516)
- B. The parent may leave the premises at any time after turning over custody of the neonate, when abuse and/or neglect are not suspected, and is not required to complete any paperwork or accept any of the material that is available to them.
- C. The person or government entity that takes possession of a neonate and provides temporary emergency care is immune from any civil or criminal liability unless the person or entity has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.
- D. The person receiving the neonate is authorized to perform any act necessary to protect the physical health and safety of the neonate.

PROCEDURE

- A. The parent presents an neonate, who is reasonably believed to be up to 30 days old, to the EMT who shall accept the neonate.
- B. Upon taking possession of the neonate, the EMT shall do the following:
 - 1. Perform any act necessary to protect the neonate's health or safety.
 - 2. Examine the neonate for any obvious signs of injury or abuse. If the neonate has been neglected or harmed, immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. Attempt to obtain the parent's identity without placing yourself in danger.
 - 3. If possible, make available to the parent who delivered the neonate, the forms* necessary to gather medical information concerning the neonate and the neonate's parents. Offer to assist the individual in completing the forms as needed. The person may take the forms with them and return completed forms in the enclosed envelope.
 - 4. If possible, give the person who delivered the neonate to you, materials* that describe services available to assist parents and newborns.
 - 5. Transport the neonate to closest most appropriate facility. An EMT who takes possession of neonate shall perform any medical service/treatment the EMT is authorized to perform that is necessary to protect the physical health or safety of the neonate.

IF EMERGENCY CARE IS NECESSARY, DO NOT DELAY CARE OR TRANSPORT TO GATHER INFORMATION OR WAIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

- 6. Notify the County's Children Protective Services
- 7. Notify the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction about EMS taking custody of a Safe Haven Baby.

*Forms and materials are available from the local Children's Protective Services. Also each County may have their own Safe Haven Kit