

POLICE DEPARTMENT HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS



DIRECTIVE: 211-P

REFERENCE STANDARDS:

SUBJECT: Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection

PURPOSE: To establish procedures for the Department to be followed in the event an infant is abandoned at the Hanover Park Police Department.

POLICY: Members of the Hanover Park Police Department will comply with "The Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act" (325 ILCS 2/1). 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 before the child is 30 days old and has no signs of abuse or neglect.

DEFINITIONS:

NEWBORN INFANT - A child who a licensed physician reasonably believes is 30 days old or less at the time the child is initially relinquished, and who is not an abused or neglected child.

POLICE STATION - The Village of Hanover Park Police station at 2121 W. Lake St.

RELINQUISH - To bring a newborn infant to hospital, police station, fire station, or emergency medical facility and to leave the infant with personnel of the facility, if the person leaving the infant does not express an intent to return for the infant or states that he or she will not return for the infant.

TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE CUSTODY - The temporary placement of a newborn infant within a hospital or other medical facility out of the custody of the infant's parent.

I. Procedures

- A. All personnel must accept a newborn infant brought to the police station for the purpose of relinquishing the infant in accordance with the provisions of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. A sworn officer will respond in the event the child is brought in to a civilian employee.
- B. An ambulance will immediately be called to transport the infant to a hospital for medical examination and the Shift Supervisor will be notified.

POLICE OPERATIONS MANUAL

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VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK

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- C. Relinquishing a newborn infant does not, by itself, constitute a basis for a finding of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of the infant pursuant to the laws of this State nor does it, by itself constitute a violation of the Criminal Code of 1961.
- D. Neither a child protective investigation nor a criminal investigation **shall** be initiated solely because a newborn infant is relinquished under the provisions of the Abandoned Newborn Protection Act, **unless** there is evidence of abuse or neglect.
- E. If there is evidence of abuse or neglect, a criminal investigation will begin and the incident must be reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.
- F. If there is **no** evidence of abuse or neglect of the relinquished newborn infant, the person relinquishing the newborn infant has the right to remain anonymous and to leave the police station at any time and not be questioned, pursued, or followed.
- G. Before the person relinquishing the newborn infant leaves the police station, **the officer shall:**
 - 1. Verbally inform the person that by relinquishing the child anonymously, he or she will have to petition the court if he or she desires to prevent the termination of parental rights and regain custody of the child.
 - 2. Offer the person relinquishing the newborn infant an information packet supplied by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Illinois Department of Public Health containing three brochures. The first brochure, (with a self-mailer attached), describes the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act and the rights of birth parents, including an optional section for the parent to complete and mail to the Department of Children and Family Services, that asks for basic anonymous background information about the relinquished child. The second brochure describes the Illinois Adoption Registry, including a toll-free number and website information. The third brochure describes postpartum health information for the mother, (Appendix 1). A supply of information packets will be kept in the Radio Room. The brochures can also be downloaded using the following link of the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation website: <http://www.saveabandonedbabies.org/resources/information-packet/index.html>.
 - 3. A resource list of providers of counseling services including grief counseling, pregnancy counseling, and counseling regarding adoption and other available options for placement of the infant shall also be included with the information packet, (Appendix 1).
- H. If the parent of the newborn infant returns to reclaim the infant within 72 hours after relinquishing the infant to the Department, the parent must be informed of the name and location of the hospital the infant was transported to.

II. Reporting

- A. If there is no evidence of abuse or neglect of the relinquished newborn infant, an Incident/Offense Report will be completed using UCR code **1755-Child Abandonment**.
- B. If there is evidence of abuse or neglect, a report of the incident will be written using the proper criminal offense UCR code for the appropriate criminal incident. Investigations personnel will be contacted per Department Directive 484-I.
- C. Any personnel acting in good faith in accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act are immune from criminal or civil liability.