

Policy: **Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act**

Purpose: This policy is intended to fully meet the requirements of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (Public Act 92-0432), which became law August 17, 2001. The act can be viewed on the internet at:

www.legis.state.il.us/publicacts/pubact92/acts/92-0432.html

Scope: This Policy applies to all Fire Department personnel

Policy

Fire Department personnel will follow the procedures listed below to provide the highest level of protection for any newborn that is placed in their care under this act.

Procedures: Abandoned children that are left at a fire station:

1. A fire station employee must accept a newborn left with them provided that:
 - a) The newborn appears to be less than 72 hours old (umbilical cord may still be attached).
 - b) The newborn is left in an apparently unharmed condition.
2. The fire department employee must not inquire as to the identity of the parent or person leaving the newborn and **must not** call the police, provided the newborn is apparently unharmed when presented at the fire station. The fire department employee may ask the person leaving the newborn about the medical history of the mother and the newborn, but the person leaving the child is **not** required to provide any information.
3. The fire department employee must provide the person leaving the newborn with the prepared information packet supplied by Illinois Department of Public Health.
4. Immediately arrange for transport to the nearest hospital.
5. When you complete your incident report, be very thorough in your narrative to include the facts and circumstances related to this incident. A copy of this report is to be sent to the Department of Children and Family Services, 508 S. Race St., Urbana, IL 61801 with a cover letter explaining the purpose of the report.
6. Fire department personnel who perform duties under the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act will be immune from any criminal or civil liability that may otherwise result from the performance of those duties if you act in good faith.

7. When to notify the Police Department:

- a) If the child appears older than 72 hours in age (umbilical cord has fallen off).
- b) If the infant, regardless of age, appears to be in poor health or has been harmed in any way.

By the order of: _____
Fire Chief

Date: _____