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| POLICY: | 200.05 ILLINOIS ABANDONED NEWBORN INFANT PROTECTION ACT | | |
| APPROVAL: | VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMS; | | |
| EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/2024 | | | ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/16 |
| DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC | | EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES | |

I. Purpose:

The intent of the procedure is to establish a consistent method of action associated with the receipt of newborn infants who, under the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act, 325 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 2/1 *et seq.*, may be legally relinquished to the care and custody of a hospital, manned fire station or other emergency medical facility.

II. Definitions:

A. Newborn

A newborn is an infant who a licensed physician reasonably believes is 30 days old or younger.

B. Relinquish

Relinquish means leaving an infant with the personnel of a hospital, manned fire station, or other emergency medical facility.

C. Emergency medical facility

An emergency medical facility is a freestanding emergency center or trauma center as defined in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Urgent care and convenient care centers are not included in this designation.

III. Policy:

As directed by the Illinois Abandoned newborn Infant Protection Act, 325 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 2/1 *et seq.*, the personnel of a Morris Hospital EMS System hospital, manned fire station, or other emergency medical facility must accept and provide all necessary care to a newborn infant, who a licensed physician reasonably believes is 30 days old or younger, presented to their facility.

IV. Procedure:

A. Assess the infant and ask the relinquishing parent the infants name and date of birth.

B. Refusing to take an infant presumed to be older than 30 days or one who is abused or neglected from a parent who wishes to relinquish them could possibly result in harm to the infant. It is in the best interest of the child to accept them and proceed as below.

Initiate EMS care that is necessary per SOP under implied consent and contact the nearest system hospital as soon as possible so a physician can take temporary protective custody of the infant.

C. If there is suspected child abuse or neglect, not based solely on the infant’s relinquishment, Morris Hospital EMS System pre-hospital providers and hospital personnel must report that

to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Central Registry (1-800-25-ABUSE), using the current procedure for making such a report.

- D.** The personnel of the Morris Hospital EMS System provider agency must provide an information packet to the relinquishing person, which contains information on the Adoption Registry and Medical Exchange, written notice of the process to terminate parental rights, and a resource list of counselors, including grief counseling, pregnancy counseling and counseling regarding adoption, and other available options. (Each agency should develop its own list of local providers of these services.) The information packet must include written notice of the following:
 - 1.** “No sooner than 60 days following the date of the initial relinquishing of the infant to a hospital, manned fire station or emergency medical facility, the child placing agency or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will commence proceedings for the termination of parental rights and placement of the infant for adoption.”
 - 2.** “Failure of a parent of the infant to contact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and petition for the return of custody of the infant before termination of parental rights bars any further action asserting legal rights and respect to that infant.”

- E.** Morris Hospital EMS System personnel who accept a child must inform the relinquishing person that they may relinquish the child anonymously and acceptance of the information packet is completely voluntary.

- F.** Morris Hospital EMS System personnel may inquire about the maternal/child medical history, but the relinquishing person is under no obligation to provide any information.

- G.** If the relinquishing person declines the information packet, the relinquishing person must be verbally informed that by relinquishing the infant anonymously, he or she will have to petition the court to prevent the termination of parental rights and retain custody.

- H.** Morris Hospital EMS System personnel at a manned fire station or emergency medical facility is responsible for transporting the child to the closest, most appropriate hospital for further medical evaluation in compliance with established EMS System procedures. After being evaluated at a hospital, the infant will be placed with the Department of Children and Family Services who will then transfer the baby to an adoption agency. The birth mother has 60 days to reconsider relinquishing her baby

- I.** The Morris Hospital EMS System hospital must further examine the infant and call the State Central Registry (1-800-25-ABUSE) to report the relinquished infant within 12 hours of acceptance of the child.

- J.** If the parent or relinquishing person of a newborn infant returns to reclaim the child within 72 hours after relinquishing the child to a manned fire station or emergency medical facility, personnel must inform the parent or relinquishing person of the name and location of the hospital to which the infant was transported.

