

University of Chicago Police Department

GENERAL ORDER

<i>Effective Date:</i> October 11, 2013		<i>Number:</i> GO 513
<i>Subject:</i> Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act		
<i>References:</i> Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (325 ILCS 2/), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/).		
<i>Reevaluation Date:</i> Annually		<i>No. Pages:</i> 4
<i>Amends:</i>		<i>Rescinds:</i>
<i>Approved By:</i> Marlon C. Lynch, Associate Vice President and Chief of Police		<i>Signature:</i> (Original signed document on file in Accreditation Office.)

513.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures, consistent with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (325 ILCS 2/1 et seq.), to be followed in the event that an infant is abandoned at the University of Chicago Police Department headquarters.

513.2 DEFINITIONS

Newborn Infant: Any child who a licensed physician reasonably believes is 30 days old or less at the time the child is initially relinquished to a hospital, police station, fire station, or emergency medical facility, **and who is not an abused or a neglected child.**

Relinquish: To bring a newborn infant to a 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.

513.3 ABANDONED NEWBORN INFANT PROTECTION ACT

Pursuant to the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act, every police station within the State of Illinois must:

- A. Accept and provide all necessary emergency services and care to a relinquished newborn infant, in accordance with this act;
- B. Arrange for the transportation of the relinquished infant to the nearest hospital as soon as possible;
- C. Inform the parent of the name and location of the hospital to which the infant was transported, should the parent return to the police station within 72 hours after relinquishing the infant;
- D. Allow the relinquishing parent to remain anonymous and to leave the police station without being pursued, provided that the infant shows no signs of abuse or neglect;

NOTE: Department personnel accepting the relinquished infant should make a physical appraisal of the condition of the infant and if any signs of abuse or neglect are observed, the relinquishing person should be held until a preliminary investigation can be completed.

- E. Tell the person that by relinquishing the child anonymously, s/he will have to petition the court if s/he wants to prevent the termination of parental rights and retain custody; and
- F. Offer the person an informational packet containing prescribed materials.

513.4 PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYEES

In the event a person comes to the University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD) for the purpose of relinquishing an infant pursuant to the Newborn Infant Protection Act, the following procedures will be followed:

- A. Since personnel within the UCPD Emergency Communication Center (ECC) will most likely have the first contact with the relinquishing person, the Communications Center personnel will reassure the parent(s) that Department personnel will cooperate with the relinquishment of the infant, but that a UCPD Police Officer must first view the infant to conduct a physical appraisal of the condition of the infant.
- B. The responding officer shall take temporary protective custody of the infant and arrange for the transportation of the infant, by ambulance, to the University of Chicago Medicine for medical evaluation.

NOTE: The act of relinquishing a newborn infant serves as implied consent for the hospital, medical personnel and physicians to treat and provide care for the infant.

NOTE: This request will also serve as initial notice to the on-duty Captain or Shift Supervisor so that a timely notification can be sent in accordance with the UCPD GO entitled “Notification Procedures.”

- C. After the responding officer has made the initial request for an ambulance, the officer will conduct a physical appraisal of the condition of the infant to ensure that the infant does not display any signs of abuse or neglect.

NOTE: The appraising officer will not be expected to conduct a complete medical assessment. The physical appraisal will be conducted while the infant remains clothed and shall only be for the purposes of determining if there are any obvious physical signs of abuse or neglect.

NOTE: If the relinquished infant displays signs of abuse or neglect, the officer will detain the person until a preliminary investigation can be conducted.

- D. The officer will advise the person that s/he will be required to petition the court should he/she want to prevent the termination of parental rights. The officer will offer the relinquishing person an informational packet, which will be kept in the UCPD ECC, and if possible, must clearly inform the relinquishing person that his or her acceptance of the information is voluntary. **These requirements will be documented in the responding officer’s incident report.**

- E. The informational packet shall contain the following items:

1. Written notice (UCPD-23.176) to relinquishing person under the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection act.
2. Resource list of counseling services providers (UCPD-23.175).
3. Department of Children and Family Services Brochure (DCFS-193).
4. Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange brochure.
5. Department of Children and Family Services Brochure (DCFS-194).

- F. If there are no signs of abuse or neglect, the responding officer may then allow the person to remain anonymous and leave the Department.
- G. The responding officer will complete an incident report (child abandonment) documenting the infant relinquishment before the officer's tour of duty ends.
- H. The responding officer shall ensure that a notification is made to the Department of Child and Family Services hotline (1-800-55ABUSE) before the officer's tour of duty ends. **The time of this notification will be documented in the responding officer's incident report narrative.**
- I. Should the relinquishing person return to the Department within 72 hours of relinquishing the infant, the person(s) shall be provided with the name and location of the hospital that the infant was transported to.

513.5 IMMUNITY FOR RELINQUISHING PERSON

- A. Relinquishing a newborn infant to UCPD in accordance with Illinois law 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 Section 12-21.5 or 12-21.6 of the Criminal Code of 1961.
- B. In accordance with Illinois law, a criminal investigation may not be initiated solely because a newborn infant is relinquished pursuant to the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (325 ILCS 2/1 et seq.).
- C. If there is suspected child abuse or neglect that is not based solely on the newborn infant's relinquishment to the University of Chicago Police Department, then such circumstance must be reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in accordance with the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/1 et seq.).

513.6 SIGNAGE

The Department shall post a sign in a conspicuous place on the exterior of the Department Headquarters informing persons that a newborn infant may be relinquished at the Department in accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (325 ILCS 2/1 et seq.).