

Guidelines for Authorized “A Safe Place For Newborns” Facilities

Oregon Law states that:

“A parent may leave a newborn at an authorized facility in the physical custody of an agent, employee, doctor, or other medical professional working at the authorized facility if the newborn:

(a) Is 30 days of age or younger as determined to a reasonable degree of medical certainty; and

(b) Shows no evidence of abuse.

A parent leaving a newborn is not required to provide any identifying information about the newborn or the parent, and may leave the facility at any time”.

Under Oregon’s A Safe Place for Newborns law, the following are authorized safe infant surrender facilities:

- » *Hospitals*
- » *Birthing Clinics*
- » *Sheriff Offices*
- » *Doctors’ Offices*
- » *Police Stations*
- » *Fire Departments*

If you are an employee working in an authorized safe infant surrender facility, you may receive an infant at any time, with no prior notice. The following guidelines will help you to carry out your responsibilities in regard to this law.

Preparation to receive an infant under A Safe Place for Newborns law:

- Ensure that all staff in your facility know about the law and are trained in these guidelines.*
- Familiarize your staff with the A Safe Place for Newborns packet, including:*
 - For your staff:*
 - 1) *A Safe Place for Newborns Guidelines*
 - 2) *Drop-Off Report Form*
 - For the parent:*
 - 1) *Letter for Parents*
 - 2) *CHS Child Welfare Offices phone numbers by Counties*
 - 3) *Medical and Genetic History from*
 - 4) *A Safe Place for Newborns brochure*

*To get more of these materials call 971-673-0232
or visit www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ASafePlace*
- Ensure that all staff know where the A Safe Place for Newborns packet is kept.*
- Post these guidelines in a visible location for staff reference.*

When an infant is brought to your facility for surrender under the A Safe Place for Newborns law:

Immediately upon receipt of a newborn:

- Retrieve A Safe Place for Newborns packet*
- Do not try to identify the person (parent) surrendering the infant.*
- Perform all reasonable acts to ensure the health and safety of the child including:*
 - Check infant for any visible signs of abuse.*
 - Estimate if the infant is 30-days-old or younger.*
 - (1) If the baby shows signs of abuse or appears much older than a 30 day old infant, call the police and your local CHS Child Welfare Office (list attached).*
 - (2) If the baby seems to be a newborn and there are no signs of abuse, proceed with the following steps.*
- Give the parent the*
 - (1) Letter for Parents and*
 - (2) CHS County Child Welfare Offices phone list.*
- Ask if the parent would fill out a voluntary health questionnaire about the infant.*
 - (1) The parent can take the questionnaire with them and fill it out and mail it later (self-addressed stamped envelope).*

Within the first 24 hours, your facility must:

- As soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after receiving the newborn, notify your local CHS Child Welfare Office (list attached) that a newborn has been left at the facility . The phone number for local CHS Child Welfare Office office is:*

- Record the receipt of the infant on the Drop-Off Report Form.*
- Release the newborn to CHS Child Welfare when it is appropriate considering the newborn's medical condition. CHS Child Welfare will then assume physical custody of the newborn.*
- Provide CHS Child Welfare with all information the facility has regarding the newborn, including the Drop-Off Report Form.*

Any subsequent inquiry regarding a surrendered newborn should be directed to your local CHS Child Welfare Office:

Local CHS Child Welfare Office phone number:

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