

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER -
SHREVEPORT

**RELINQUISHMENT OF NEWBORN
SAFE HAVEN LAW**

Purpose:

To provide a mechanism for compliance with the revised Louisiana Children's Code, Articles 1701 - 1706, allowing for a parent to relinquish the care of her newborn infant to the state in anonymity and without fear of prosecution or persecution at a designated emergency care facility.

Definitions:

Newborn infant – for the purpose of this law, any infant less than **30 days** of age.

Emergency care facility – any state licensed hospital, public health unit, fire or police station, or pregnancy crisis center.

Policy:

1. Any employee of the hospital shall receive a newborn infant relinquished by the mother and shall not question the parent regarding her/his identity; the employee receiving the newborn infant shall immediately transport the infant to the Pediatric Emergency Care Center (ECC)
2. The infant shall be examined and admitted by a pediatrician to the appropriate unit, based upon level of care needed. Options include Newborn Nursery, PICU or Pediatric Unit.
3. When a newborn infant is relinquished during normal business hours:
 - a. The ECC shall notify the Administrator On Call and the Pediatric Case Manager that a newborn relinquishment has occurred.
 - b. The Case Manager shall notify the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS), Office of Community Services (OCS) of the relinquishment within twenty-four hours of the infant's arrival.

- c. The Case Manger shall notify the MAP office for follow-up, as newborns relinquished shall immediately be qualified for Medicaid.
4. When a newborn infant is relinquished after hours and weekends:
 - a. The ECC shall notify the Administrative House Manager (AHM).
 - b. The AHM will notify the Administrator On Call and DSS/OCS.
 - c. The AHM shall complete an Administrative Occurrence report and forward it to the Case Management office for follow-up.
 - d. On the next business day, the Pediatric Case Manager shall verify contact was made with the DSS/OCS and notify the MAP office of the admission.
5. DSS shall take custody and control of the newborn with 24 hours of notification provided the infant is medically stable.



Administrator

3/25/08

Date

Approved by Clinical Board: 11/20/01, 1/18/05, 3/18/08

Written: 09/01

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