

Safe Haven Procedures for Hospital or Emergency Clinic Personnel

CRS 19-3-304.5

If a parent voluntarily delivers a child to a firefighter, as defined in section 18-3-201 (1.5), or a staff member who engages in the admission, care, or treatment of patients at a hospital or community clinic emergency center, as defined in subsection (9) of this section, when the firefighter is at a fire station or the staff member is at a hospital or community clinic emergency center, as defined in subsection (9) of this section, the firefighter or staff member of the hospital or community clinic emergency center shall, without a court order, take temporary physical custody of the child if:

- (a) The child is seventy-two hours old or younger; and
- (b) The parent did not express an intent to return for the child.

CRS 18-3-201 (1, 1.3)

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- (b) The parent did not express an intent to return for the child.

Requirements

- Infant must be 72 hours old or younger
- Infant must be unharmed

*This information has not been reviewed by legal counsel

- If your situation does not meet these criteria, contact local law enforcement for assistance

Following these steps properly provides the parent immunity from prosecution related to abandonment, however, this does not provide immunity from potential child abuse charges or neglect, if applicable

Procedure (May Vary By Hospital)

When a parent voluntarily delivers a child to a healthcare employee, the employee shall:

- Take temporary custody of the child
- Perform any necessary act to protect, preserve or aid the physical health and safety of the child
- Allow the relinquishing parent to remain anonymous and leave without being pursued provided that the infant shows no signs of abuse or neglect and is 72 hours old or younger
- Perform a basic assessment of the infant's condition.
- Have lead notify law enforcement
- **Contact Colorado Department of Health and Human Services (CDHS) at 844-CO4KIDS (24 hours)**

You May..

- Accept the newborn
- Evaluate the newborn
- Offer mother medical evaluation
- Provide mother/parent opportunity to give pertinent health information about the infant/birth. You may ASK, but you may NOT compel.
- Provide National Safe Haven Alliance hotline for aftercare/counseling resources **888-510-BABY (2229)**
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You May NOT..

- Request any identification from parent
- Ask the parent for any information beyond health history of the infant
- Discuss any legal rights of the parent beyond your scope of expertise
- Use or make any inflammatory remarks or statements
- Avoid use of the word "abandonment"

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NO SHAME, NO BLAME, NO NAMES

What to do if the infant is older or there is evidence of abuse:

- Voluntarily accept the child
- Encourage the parent to stay to discuss placement options
- Call crisis hotline for resources
- If parent leaves or there is evidence of abuse/neglect, notify Law Enforcement
- Do NOT confront/accuse