

**DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 10-08**

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: November 22, 2010

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**SAFE PLACE FOR NEWBORNS ACT**

I. PURPOSE.

To protect newborn children from injury and death caused by abandonment by a parent, and to provide safe and secure alternatives to such abandonment.

II. PROCEDURES.

A parent shall not be prosecuted for the voluntary relinquishment of a child up to five days old, and it is an affirmative defense to prosecution for a parent who is a defendant who voluntarily relinquished a child no more than one year old, if:

Expressing intent not to return for the child, the parent voluntarily delivered the child safely to the physical custody of any of the following persons:

Paid or Volunteer Fire Fighter, Emergency Medical Technician, Hospital staff or Law Enforcement Officer

and

The child has not been abused or neglected by the parent prior to such voluntary delivery.

The officer accepting delivery shall arrange for the immediate transportation of the child to the nearest hospital. A juvenile officer shall immediately begin protective custody proceedings and request the child be made a ward of the court during the child's stay in the medical facility, and that upon discharge the child is to be placed in the custody of the Missouri Department of Social Services/Children's Division.

This Act does not require that personal information be obtained regarding those children up to five days old. If the child is six days old or older, the officer should attempt to gain personal information regarding the child/parents.

BY ORDER OF:

THOMAS J. BYRNE  
Chief of Police

TJB:mj