

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION: 11 INVESTIGATIONS

SUBJECT: 1102 SAFE HAVEN

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2015

1. **SAFE HAVEN.** Safe Haven refers to a designated emergency care facility where a parent may anonymously leave his/her infant child, with the intent of placing the child for adoption, without fear of prosecution.

"Infant" means a child not previously subjected to abuse or neglect, who is not more than thirty days old as determined within a reasonable degree of medical certainty by an examining physician.

A "designated emergency care facility" includes any of the following:

- Licensed Hospital in Louisiana
- Public Health Unit
- Emergency Medical Service Provider
- Medical Clinic
- Fire Station
- Police Station
- Pregnancy Crisis Center
- Child Advocacy Center

If a parent is unable to travel to a Safe Haven facility, he or she may call 911 and a law enforcement officer or EMS provider will pick up the infant and transport the child to a hospital.

2. **RELINQUISHMENT.** At the time of relinquishment, the parent is given a card with a toll-free number, 1-800-CHILDREN (1800-244-5373), which he/she can call to find out more about his/her rights and to anonymously give information about the infant's medical/genetic history. Parents do not have to give their name or any other information. If provided the parents personal information shall be protected.

3. **MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.** The desk supervisor will immediately notify the ambulance service and the child will be transported to a hospital for medical assessment and treatment. After a child is received, the staff member shall immediately notify the Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services at, (318) 487-5116, of the relinquishment. Upon notification, the Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services will initiate legal proceedings to obtain custody of the child. After being discharged from the hospital, the state will take custody of the child and initiate legal proceedings to free the child for adoption.

4. **SAFE HAVEN LAW.** When a parent relinquishes a child under the guidelines of the Safe Haven Law, he/she is not guilty of a criminal act of neglect, abandonment or child cruelty, as long as the parent gives the baby to an employee and the baby shows no signs of abuse or neglect, the parent can simply walk away.

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION: 11 INVESTIGATIONS

SUBJECT: 1102 SAFE HAVEN

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2015

5. PARENTAL RIGHTS. The relinquishing parent has 60 days to seek to reclaim parental rights of the infant. They are to contact the local parish Office of Community Services for additional information.

6. DEPARTMENT POLICY. It shall be department policy not to turn away any child regardless of age. The Office of Community Services will be notified and be responsible for determining the age of the child.

By order of

Darrell Basco
Chief of Police