

## A. Introduction

The following are guidelines for compliance with requirements of FS 383.50 and FS 383.51 as it relates to a newborn infant(s) released to fire station personnel.

## B. Procedure

### *General Care*

All Miami-Dade Fire Rescue stations will accept any newborn infant(s) left with a firefighter, emergency medical technician and/or paramedic. Fire Rescue personnel accepting the newborn infant(s) will consider the actions of the person delivering the newborn infant(s) to be implied consent and will:

1. Initiate emergency medical procedures for the newborn infant(s) to the extent he/she is trained, **and**
2. Arrange for immediate Miami-Dade Fire Rescue ALS transportation of the newborn infant(s) to the nearest appropriate facility. Any firefighter, emergency medical technician and/or paramedic accepting or providing emergency medical services to a newborn infant(s) pursuant to this Florida Statute is immune from criminal or civil liability for having performed the act.
3. Except where there is actual or suspected child abuse or neglect, any parent who leaves a newborn infant(s) with a firefighter, emergency medical technician and/or paramedic at a fire station and expresses intent to leave the newborn infant(s) has the absolute right to remain anonymous and to leave at any time and may not be pursued or followed. Do not pressure the parent(s) as they are not obligated to answer questions however medically related questions are permissible:
  1. Did the mother receive prenatal care through the pregnancy?
  2. Was the delivery of the newborn infant free from complications?
  3. Is there any past medical history related to the mother/father or relatives that may assist in care of the newborn infant?
4. A parent of a newborn infant(s) left at a fire station or hospital may claim his or her newborn infant(s) up until the court enters a judgment terminating his or her parental rights.
5. In the event signs or symptoms of abuse are seen or suspected, refer to Community Services & Abuse Reporting ([Protocol 29](#)).
6. A newborn infant(s) left at a fire station will be deemed surrendered, therefore not subject to reporting and investigation requirements, unless there is actual or suspected child abuse.
7. The identity of a parent who leaves a newborn infant(s) at a fire station is confidential.

## C. Special Notes

1. Fire Rescue personnel includes firefighter, emergency medical technician and/or paramedic.
2. A newborn infant is defined as a child that a licensed physician reasonably believes to be approximately **seven days old or younger** at the time the child is left at a hospital or a fire station.
3. If a parent(s) returns to the fire station either prior to or after transporting the newborn to the hospital, it is recommended that the parent(s) be instructed to contact officials at the receiving hospital. This course of action enables that the baby receives medical attention and also possible services for the parent(s).