



CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE: AUGUST 11, 2025	CHAPTER: 5 – Field Investigations	PAGE: 1 of 2	NUMBER: 5.15.19
SUBJECT: SAFE HAVEN INFANT / BABY (30 DAYS OF AGE OR YOUNGER)			
CHIEF: <i>Dorothy A. Todd, Chief</i>			

This General Police Order has been revised in its entirety

PURPOSE: To ensure compliance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 2151.3516, the “Safe Haven Law,” which allows a parent to voluntarily relinquish a child, thirty (30) days of age or younger, to an emergency medical service worker, peace officer, or hospital employee.

POLICY: **It is the policy of the Cleveland Division of Police** that an officer of the Division shall accept into protective custody an infant 30 days of age or younger, in accordance with the Safe Haven Law.

PROCEDURES:

I. Member Responsibilities

A. An officer who assumes protective custody of a child under ORC 2151.3516 shall:

1. Take any necessary action to protect the infant’s immediate health and safety.
2. Request Emergency Medical Services (EMS) respond to the location.
3. Notify 696-KIDS (Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services) that the infant has been taken into protective custody.

B. If the parent or individual who is relinquishing the child is on scene, officers shall:

1. Offer to the parent or individual relinquishing the infant, if possible, informational materials, including medical history forms and a pamphlet outlining support services available for parents and newborns, with the understanding that the acceptance by the individual of these documents is voluntary. These documents are available at the Supply Unit.
2. Make reasonable attempts to identify or pursue the person who relinquished the child only if the infant has suffered a physical or mental injuries, disabilities, or other conditions indicating possible abuse or neglect.

C. Provide a full briefing to the social worker from Children and Family Services.

D. Generate an incident report entitled “Safe Haven Infant”.

1. If the infant appears to have been injured or neglected prior to relinquishment, the officer shall include the appropriate criminal offenses in the report.

PAGE: 2 of 2	SUBJECT: SAFE HAVEN INFANT / BABY (30 DAYS OF AGE OR YOUNGER)	NUMBER: 5.15.19
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II. Supervisor Responsibilities

- A. Respond to the scene of all incidents involving the relinquishment of an infant under the Safe Haven Law.
- B. Ensure that EMS and Child and Family Services are notified and have responded.
- C. Ensure officers complete all necessary documentation and incident reports accurately and in a timely manner.

THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES ANY PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DIRECTIVE OR POLICY FOR THIS SUBJECT AND WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.