



WARE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

Effective Date: July 2008	SOG Category & Identification Number: Administrative AMD-003	Revision:
SOG Title: Placement of Newborn Infants		
Approved by:	Re-evaluation Date: July 2009	Number of Pages: 2

Purpose: To provide care to a newborn infant, seven (7) days old or less who has been left at the Ware Fire Station for the purposes of being turned over to the Department of Social Services for foster care under the provisions of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2004, An Act Relative to the Safe Placement of Newborn Infants.

Scope: This guideline shall apply to all members of the Ware Fire Department. This guideline is in effect, anytime the Ware Fire Station is staffed.

Enforcement: It shall be the responsibility of the senior officer or firefighter on-duty to assure this S.O.G is complied with.

Application:

- Voluntary abandonment and a newborn infant seven (7) days of age or younger to an appropriate person at a hospital, police department, or staffed fire station shall not by itself constitute abuse or neglect.
- If child abuse or neglect is suspected and, it is not based solely on the newborn infant having been left in your care, department personnel has mandated reporters of M.G.L. c119 ss 51A share report the abuse and neglect to the Department of Social Services in the Ware Police Department.
- The firefighter accepting a newborn infant at the Ware Fire Station shall make every effort to solicit the following information from the parent/person/guardian placing the newborn infant, keeping in mind that the person leaving the infant may refuse.
 1. The name of the newborn infant
 2. The name and address of the parent/person/guardian placing the newborn infant
 3. The location of the newborn infants birthplace
 4. Information relative to the newborn infants, medical history, and his or hers, biological family's medical history

5. Any other information that might reasonably assist the Department of Social Services or the court in current or future determination of the best interest of the child, including whether the parent or guardian plans on returning to seek future custody of the child.
- The member receiving the newborn infant shall encourage the parent/person/guardian to provide the information. But parent/person/guardian shall not be required to provide such information.

Duties and responsibilities:

- Provide appropriate medical care as needed for the infant and the parent/person/guardian, if needed
- Complete the attached Receiving Information Form
- Transport to Mary Lane Hospital