

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE***Standard Operating Guidelines***5200.010****Abandoned Newborn**

Implemented: 01/26/11

Revised:

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\_\_\_\_\_**Paul Williams**\_\_\_\_\_, Fire Chief**PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines for managing the drop off of an abandoned newborn infant that is 7 days old or younger, in accordance with Florida Statute 383.50.

**OBJECTIVE**

To establish a standard guideline for personnel in accordance with Florida Statute 383.50 and the Safe Haven for Newborns program. Please visit [www.asafehavenfornewborns.com](http://www.asafehavenfornewborns.com) for training and further information.

**SCOPE**

All Personnel

**PROCEDURES:**

Escambia County Fire Rescue personnel shall accept any newborn infant left with a Firefighter, EMT or Paramedic. Personnel shall consider this action implied consent.

Notify ECFR and ECSO communications centers and advise them of the abandoned newborn infant, initiate a still alarm, and place the necessary equipment out of service.

Station personnel should make an effort to obtain a medical history of both parents and the infant in accordance with the Safe Haven Medical Questionnaire.

Florida Statute 383.50 provides immunity from criminal or civil liability to any firefighter or emergency medical personnel who accepts or provides services to the infant.

The newborn infant will be transported to the most appropriate hospital

In the event of signs or symptoms of abuse, the abandoned newborn infant statute does not apply and EMS parameters will be followed. Station personnel are required to document suspected abuse in their patient care report, notify the Department of Children and Families, Law Enforcement, and the receiving facility of transport.

An incident and patient care report shall be generated.

Florida Statute 383.50 allows provisions for the infant to be eligible for Medicaid and reimbursement for services rendered can be sought under this provision.