

<b>FRAMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>		Next Review Date: Annually
<b>Subject: Abandoned Infants</b>		Effective Date: January 17, 2014 Rev. September 9, 2022
<b>Category: 200 - Investigations</b>		Expiration Date: Indefinite
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED:		<b>POLICY</b> <b>200-17</b>
Distribution: Police Department	<b>Issuing Authority</b> <i>Lester Baker</i> <b>Lester Baker</b> <b>Chief of Police</b>	

## Policy Statement

This policy establishes familiarization and guidance for Framingham Police personnel under section 39 ½ of Chapter 119 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, known as the “Safe Haven Law.”

## Policy

This policy shall apply to all Framingham Police department personnel. The Safe Haven Act of Massachusetts (2004) allows a parent or guardian to legally abandon a newborn baby **seven (7) days or younger that has not been abused**, at a hospital, police station, or manned fire station, without facing criminal prosecution.

## References

None

## **Special Terms**

None

## **Specific Procedures**

### **When a newborn is placed in Safe Haven at a Police Station or Substation:**

1. A Police Officer will immediately notify his/her Commanding Officer.
2. The Commanding Officer or their designee will have communication specialist or police officer initiate an (EMS) Emergency Medical Service incident at the police station, requesting an ambulance to respond.
3. A case number will be assigned, entitled "Medical", location: "Station."
4. The Commanding Officer will then notify Bureau of Investigative Services Commander/on call Detective, Deputy Chief Operations and Chief.
5. EMS personnel will assess the medical condition of the newborn, and transport to the hospital.
6. A detailed report must be submitted by the investigating Officer, to include, but not limited to, interviews of medical personnel as to child's health, attempts to identify the parents, any plate numbers or vehicle information obtained, etc.

### **If one or more of the Parents/guardians are available:**

1. Speak to them in a quiet, private area.
2. Thank them for bringing the infant to a safe place.
3. Ask them for voluntary information that will be important to future child care, such as child's age, any medical conditions, and medications. Inform them that as the child grows older, there are hereditary traits that only a parent can address:
  - a. Name of infant,
  - b. Name and address of parents,

- c. Location of the infant's birthplace, time and date of birth,
- d. Information relative to the infant's medical history,
- e. Infant's biological family medical history,
- f. Reasonable information that is in the infant's best interest

All the above information must be included in the Officer's investigative report

Officers shall encourage the parents to provide the information, but the parent is NOT required to provide such information.

### **Notify Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

1. The Commanding Officer, the investigating Officer, or their designee, will notify DCF via telephone:

DCF Framingham Area Office  
300 Howard St., Framingham, MA  
01702  
(508) 424-0100 Fax (508) 872-8340  
After 5pm weekends/holidays: 1-(800)-792-5200

2. The investigating Officer must follow standard G.L. c. 119 § 51A process, and file a State Mandatory Reporter Form (Abuse/neglect Report-3, Revised April, 1983).