


Subject: Kinston Police Department	Document #:		Effective Date:	Page:
Abandoned Infants	400 - 4		07-01-2019	1 of 1
Approval: Chief of Police	Manual: Policy and Procedure			

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for abandoned infants within the City of Kinston.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Abandoned Infant: The term ‘abandoned infant’ is used to refer to a newborn child who is abandoned at a health care facility or law enforcement facility.

III. POLICY

- A. North Carolina State Law mandates that our agency accepts custody of any abandoned infants by providing a “legal” drop off point for abandoned infants less than seven (7) days old.
- B. Public Safety agencies are authorized to take possession and deliver care to infants less than seven (7) days old without penalty to the parents.
- C. Parents who leave infants with health care agencies will not be prosecuted for child abandonment and are not required to provide any information regarding the infant or themselves.
1. The firefighter, police officer, or public safety officer receiving the infant will record all information voluntarily provided by the parent or adult, such as the names of the infant and parents and any pertinent medical information.
 2. All information received will be recorded on the Abandoned Infant Information Report. However, the individual leaving the infant is under no obligation to provide any information.
 3. The appropriate Squad Captain will be notified immediately.
- D. The infant is to be immediately transported to UNC-Lenoir or similar type medical facility for medical evaluation.
1. Custody is transferred to UNC-Lenoir staff, who is then responsible for making the required notification to the Department of Social Services.