



Department of Children & Youth

Safe Haven Guidelines

SECTION 2151.3516 - OHIO REVISED CODE

1. A parent may voluntarily leave their child who is less than 31 days old, with no intent to return for the child to any of the following:
 - Law enforcement agency, peace officer, or peace officer support employee
 - Hospital or hospital staff
 - Emergency medical organization or emergency medical service worker
 - Newborn safety incubator
2. The parent has the right to remain anonymous and immune from criminal prosecution unless there is an indication the infant has been abused or neglected.
 - [Section 2151.3526 - Ohio Revised Code](#) (Anonymity)
 - [Section 2151.3525 - Ohio Revised Code](#) (Immunity)

PCSA REQUIREMENTS

- Gather information from the individual who originally took possession of the infant.
- If the infant is not left at a hospital, the PCSA is to arrange for the infant to be seen at a hospital within 24 hours and obtain the medical examination report.
- Assess for indication of abuse or neglect
- Contact the following to determine if a child matches the description of the infant:
 - Local law enforcement
 - [Ohio's Missing Children](#)
 - [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#)
- Obtain emergency temporary custody of the infant.
- Place the infant in substitute care, preferably into an approved foster-to-adopt home.
- Obtain a birth certificate and a social security card.
- Permanency planning for the infant.

RULES AND RESOURCES

- [OAC Rule 5101:2-36-06 PCSA requirements for a deserted child assessment/investigation](#)
- [Brochure for Birth Parents - Adoption Plan](#)
- [Brochure for Birth Parents - Available Supports](#)
- [Voluntary Medical History for Safe Havens](#)
- [Newborn Safety Incubators | Ohio Department of Health](#)
- [Safe Havens for Newborns | Department of Children and Youth](#)