

**Galveston Fire Department
Standard Operating Procedure
1300.04 Safe Baby Site**

Fire Chief _____

Implementation Date: **January 2007**

Revision Date: February 2012

Review Date: August 2013

“Baby Moses” Safe Baby Site

The purpose of this SOP is to ensure that all GFD station personnel will properly accept, care for, and secure the transfer of any unharmed child under the age of 60 days to UTMB Emergency Room for further evaluation.

Procedures:

1. Accept any infant into the fire station (or your possession) that has been left unattended or is being abandoned.
2. Provide an immediate medical assessment and perform any necessary care until EMS arrives.
3. Notify dispatch to create a run number for this call for service.
4. Request EMS to respond to your location.
5. Transfer care of the infant to EMS for treatment and/or transport to the appropriate medical facility.
6. Battalion Chief shall be notified in a timely manner.
7. The Battalion Chief shall notify the Chief’s office in a timely manner.
8. A fire report will be completed with comprehensive narrative containing known and accurate details surrounding the call.

Considerations:

1. The police should not be called when a healthy infant is hand delivered.
2. The police can be called if the baby is found unattended or the infant, in your best judgment, appears injured or neglected.
3. It is encouraged that the mother remains with the child until EMS arrives so that infant medical history may be obtained and the mother’s medical needs cared for.
4. A firefighter has no legal duty to detain or pursue the parent and may not do so unless the child appears to have been abused or neglected.
5. Any abandoned infant will be accepted if age is unknown.
6. Please refer the mother to either JSER or the County Health District for counseling and medical evaluation. The decision to abandon a child is an extreme emotion and the mother may need emotional guidance or post-delivery medical care.
7. Please attempt to give mother “Safe Baby Site” questionnaire for UTMB.

