

Instructions for Person Accepting Relinquishment of an Infant

Under 2001 Wisconsin Act 2, a parent may relinquish their newborn to a law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, or hospital staff member and may remain anonymous and free from prosecution, unless any of the following circumstances are true:

1. The newborn has been abused or neglected, or
2. The person is being coerced into relinquishing the newborn, or
3. The newborn is believed to be over 72 hours old.

The person **is not obligated** to accept any information you provide or give you any information about themselves or the newborn. They may leave your presence at anytime unless you believe one of the above situations is true or, as part of your normal responsibilities, there is a reason to take the person into custody (e.g., the person is a wanted criminal, the person needs post-delivery care, the person has been abused, the person may be sick). Any information provided before, during, or after the person relinquishes their newborn must remain confidential except that it may be provided to those people caring for the safety and well being of the child.

Within 24 hours of taking custody of the newborn, you must transfer custody of the baby to the Intake Unit at the County Human or Social Services Department in the county in which the newborn was relinquished. Provide any non-identifying information you may have to the county intake worker.

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call (608) 266-8787. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.