

# Germantown Police Department

## Policies and Procedures

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**Number:** 7-6  
**Effective Date:** August 12, 2009  
**Subject:** Infant Abandonment at Fire Departments, Law Enforcement Facilities and Emergency Service Facilities  
**Previous Revisions:**

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### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines for caring for an abandoned infant.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Germantown Police Department that all officers will follow the established procedures for dealing with abandoned infants.

### **III. PROCEDURE**

It is permissible under TCA 68-11-255 for a mother to voluntarily deliver an unharmed child to an authorized facility within 72 hours of birth without criminal penalty. Authorized facilities are hospitals, birthing centers, community health clinics, out-patient walk-in clinics, fire departments, law enforcement facilities or emergency medical service facilities.

In the event a mother abandons her baby within the above parameters, the responding officer will first notify paramedics to determine if emergency medical treatment is needed for the infant.

The shift supervisor will contact the Tennessee Department of Children's Services hotline at 877-237-0034. The supervisor will notify the agency of the abandonment and current medical condition of the infant. The Department of Children's Services will dispatch a representative to take custody of the infant.

### **IV. REVIEW PROCESS**

An annual review of this policy shall be conducted to determine if it should be revised, canceled or continued in its present form.

This order shall remain in effect until revoked or superseded by competent authority.

