



## ***How the Safe Surrender of Infants Act affects you***

### **Who Is Affected**

The following people may be called upon to accept a surrendered infant:

- Peace officers
- Firefighters
- Emergency medical services providers
- Other medically trained individuals including doctors, nurses, or health aides
- Any person the parent reasonably believes would keep the infant safe and provide appropriate care

### **Who Can Be Surrendered**

For the purposes of the Safe Surrender Act, an infant is defined as being less than 21 days old.

### **What You Must Do**

When receiving a surrendered infant, you must:

- Care for the infant
- Advise the parent that they may, but are not required to, provide the infant and/or parents' name(s) and medical history
- Ask the parent if they wish to give up parental rights and release the infant for adoption
  - If the parent answers "yes", you must assist the parent in contacting the Office of Children's Services (OCS)
  - If the parent answers "no", you must immediately notify OCS
  - Physical locations, phone numbers, and fax numbers for OCS offices may be found on the internet at <http://hss.state.ak.us/ocs/Offices/local.htm>
  - The statewide toll free reporting number for child abuse or surrendered infants is (800) 478-4444

### **Caring for the Infant**

If the infant is in need of immediate medical attention, provide care or request emergency medical services. If there is any doubt about the health of the infant, arrange for the infant to be transported to the nearest clinic or hospital by emergency medical services personnel in an infant car seat unless medical procedures prohibit placement of the infant in a proper restraint device.

If a delay is expected in the arrival of an OCS representative, the infant should be thoroughly assessed by a certified or licensed health care provider as soon as possible. All findings of the assessment should be documented.

If possible, ask if the baby is being breastfed or is on a special formula.

If you do not have a clinic or hospital in your community, you should have some basic supplies on hand to care for an infant or know where in your community you can quickly acquire them any time of day. Basic supplies to consider include:

- Infant car seat
- Baby formula
- Soft, warm blankets
- Bulb syringe
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Pacifiers
- Socks
- Hat

Supplies should be new or sanitized and of appropriate size for a newborn.

### **Confidentiality**

Any information or documents regarding the surrender of an infant are confidential and may not be released to the public.