

Connecticut Law

Sec. 17a-57. Designation of emergency room nursing staff to take physical custody of infant voluntarily surrendered. Each hospital operating an emergency room shall designate all members of the emergency room nursing staff as employees authorized to take physical custody of an infant pursuant to section 17a-58. There shall be a designated employee on duty at each hospital emergency room during regular business hours. There shall be a designated place inside such hospital emergency room where physical custody may be taken.

Sec. 17a-58. Physical custody of infant upon voluntary surrender by parent or agent. Medical history. Identification bracelet. (a) An employee designated pursuant to section 17a-57 shall take physical custody of any infant thirty days or younger if the parent or lawful agent of the parent voluntarily surrenders physical custody of the infant to such designated employee unless the parent or agent clearly expresses an intent to return for the infant.

(b) The designated employee may request the parent or agent to provide the name of the parent or agent and information on the medical history of the infant and parents. The parent or agent is not required to provide such name or information. The designated employee may provide the parent or agent with a numbered identification bracelet to link the parent or agent to the infant. The bracelet shall be used for identification only and shall not be construed to authorize the person who possesses the bracelet to take custody of the infant on demand. The designated employee shall provide the parent or agent with a pamphlet describing the process established under sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive, 53-21 and 53-23.

Sec. 17a-59. Notification of custody. Assumption of care and control by commissioner. (a) Not more than twenty-four hours after taking physical custody of the infant the designated employee shall notify, in accordance with the provisions of sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, the Department of Children and Families of such custody.

(b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall assume the care and control of the infant immediately upon receipt of notice under subsection (a) of this section and shall take any action authorized under state law to achieve safety and permanency for the infant.

(c) Any infant in the care and control of the commissioner under the provisions of this section shall be considered to be in the custody of the department.

Sec. 17a-60. Reunification of parent with infant. Confidentiality of information provided designated employee. (a) If a person claiming to be a parent or agent of an infant left with a designated employee under section 17a-58 submits a request to the Commissioner of Children and Families for reunification with the infant, the commissioner may identify, contact and investigate such person or agent to determine if such reunification is appropriate or if the parental rights of the parent should be terminated.

(b) Information concerning a parent or agent or infant left with a designated employee shall be confidential except that notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, such employee shall provide to the Commissioner of Children and Families all medical history information provided by the parent.

(c) Possession of a bracelet linking the parent or agent to an infant left with a designated employee if

parental rights have not been terminated creates a presumption the parent or person has standing to participate in a custody hearing for the infant under chapter 319a and does not create a presumption of maternity, paternity or custody.

Sec. 53-23. Abandonment of child under the age of six years. (a) Any person having the charge of any child under the age of six years who exposes such child in any place, with intent wholly to abandon such child, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not more than five years.

(b) The act of a parent or agent leaving an infant thirty days or younger with a designated employee pursuant to section 17a-58 shall not constitute a violation of this section.