
Purpose

This policy recognizes that Bemidji Police Officers will sometimes encounter children in need of protective services during their course of duty. While it is recognized that most parents want to keep their children safe, sometimes circumstances or conditions interfere with their ability to do so. When this occurs, the health and safety of children must be of paramount concern.

Policy

A. Alleged Child Maltreatment

As mandated reporters defined by Minnesota State Statute 626.556 Sub 3(a), it shall be the policy of the Bemidji Police Department to report any child in need of protective services to the Beltrami County Child Protection Service. Mandated reporters are required to report when they obtain information while performing professional duties which gives them reason to believe that a child may have been maltreated.

The Beltrami County Child Protection Service Agency has primary responsibility to investigate all reports of alleged child maltreatment within this jurisdiction. Beltrami County CPS may, at times, request assistance from the Bemidji Police Department in these types of investigations.

It is the responsibility of any responding officer to investigate instances of alleged child maltreatment immediately, and, as completely as possible at the initial time of report.

Beltrami County CPS maintains investigators and child protection social workers available to assist this department on an on-call basis. Officers should make notification and contact with CPS Intake workers during business hours and refer to the CPS master on-call roster during non-business hours. When circumstances warrant immediate protective custody of a child when the child is found in conditions that jeopardize their welfare, CPS should be notified immediately.

Only a police officer may remove a child from a home in absence of a court order. When such an instance arises, a completed 72-hour Peace Officer's Health and Welfare Hold must be completed and forwarded to Beltrami County CPS.

All reports of suspected child maltreatment shall be cross reported with Beltrami County CPS per Minnesota State Statute 626.556 Sub 7(c).

B. Babies- A Safe Place

A newborn baby presented to the Sanford Medical Center will be directed to SMC's Emergency Department, per hospital procedure.

MN State Statute 145.902 allows that a person may anonymously leave a newborn with an employee of a hospital or medical facility providing urgent care during its hours of operation, or with an ambulance responding to a 9-1-1 call, provided the newborn:

- Is seven days old or younger.
- Is unharmed.
- Is left by a mother or a person who has a mother's approval.

Within these conditions, hospital, urgent care or ambulance staff will not share any information about the mother or call the police, but may ask about the newborn's medical history.

After the person presenting the infant leaves the facility, the Bemidji Police Department is notified and will be responsible for placing the child on a 72-hour Health and Welfare Hold.

SMC's Social Service workers will coordinate with Beltrami County CPS for placement and care of the infant.

Reference or Revision Date(s):

A. REFERENCE;

1. Minnesota State Statute 626.556: *Reporting Maltreatment of Minors*
2. Minnesota State Statute 626.556 Sub 3(a): *Persons Mandated to Report*
3. Minnesota State Statute 626.556 Sub 7(c): *Report; Information provided to parent* (Cross reporting)
4. Minnesota Department of Human Services: *Minnesota Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines.*
5. Minnesota State Statute 145.902: *Give Life a Chance; Safe Place for Newborns*

B. REVISION DATE(S):