

Subject Safe place for newborns; vital records

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Overview

Under current law a mother or another person with the mother's permission may relinquish a newborn within seven days after the newborn's birth at a safe place, including a hospital, urgent care provider, or ambulance service. This bill modifies birth record provisions that apply to newborns relinquished to a safe place, referred to as "safe place newborns" in the bill, and requires issuance of a replacement vital record without information on the newborn's parents, for a safe place newborn whose birth was registered with the Office of Vital Records before the newborn was relinquished.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Reporting safe place newborn births.
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Adds subd. 3 to § 144.216. In a section governing registering births of infants of unknown parentage with the Office of Vital Records, requires a hospital that receives a safe place newborn to report the newborn's birth to the Office of Vital Records within five days after receiving the newborn. Requires the state registrar to register information about the newborn according to provisions in vital records rules for infants of unknown parentage.

This section is effective August 1, 2021.

2	Status of safe place birth registrations.
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Adds subd. 4 to § 144.216. Specifies that information registered with the Office of Vital Records for the safe place newborn constitutes the birth record for the child, classifies the birth record as confidential data on individuals, and limits disclosure of this information to the responsible social services agency or pursuant to court order. If the safe place newborn's record of birth was previously registered, requires the Office of Vital Records to replace the original birth record.

Section	Description
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This section is effective August 1, 2021.

3 Safe place newborns.

Adds subd. 6 to § 144.218. In a section governing registration of replacement birth records, requires the state registrar to issue a replacement birth record for a child received as a safe place newborn, and requires the replacement record to not identify a parent. Classifies the prior vital record as confidential data on individuals and prohibits disclosure except according to court order.

This section is effective August 1, 2021.

4 Which services are for fee.

Amends § 144.226, subd. 1. Exempts a replacement birth record issued for a safe place newborn from the \$40 fee that generally is charged for replacement vital records.

This section is effective August 1, 2021.

5 Give life a chance; safe place for newborns duties; immunity.

Subd. 1. General. In a subdivision establishing duties of a safe place that receives a relinquished newborn, clarifies that the hospital where the newborn was born may be a safe place that receives the relinquished infant. Also allows the safe place to ask the person leaving the newborn if the newborn has lineage to an Indian tribe and, if known, the name of the tribe.

Subd. 2. Reporting. If a hospital receives a relinquished newborn under this section, requires the hospital to report the newborn's birth to the Office of Vital Records. Also specifies duties of the hospital and the state registrar for a newborn whose birth was previously registered with the Office of Vital Records.

Subd. 3. Immunity. Extends immunity for safe places and for employees and professionals working at a safe place for receiving a newborn, to include immunity from administrative penalties.

This section is effective August 1, 2021.



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