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Title 9 Family Law  
Subtitle 3. Minors  
Chapter 34 Voluntary Placement of a Child  
Subchapter 2 -- Voluntary Delivery of a Child

A.C.A. § 9-34-201 (2013)

**9-34-201. Definitions.**

For purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Law enforcement agency" means any police force or organization whose primary responsibility as established by law or ordinance is the enforcement of the criminal, traffic, or highway laws of this state as defined in § 12-9-301 and that is staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day; and

(2) "Medical provider" means any emergency department of a hospital licensed under § 20-9-214.

**9-34-202. Delivery to medical provider or law enforcement agency.**

(a) Any medical provider or law enforcement agency shall without a court order take possession of a child who is thirty (30) days old or younger if the child is left with or voluntarily delivered to the medical provider or law enforcement agency by the child's parent who does not express an intent to return for the child.

(b) (1) A medical provider or law enforcement agency that takes possession of a child under subsection (a) of this section shall perform any act necessary to protect the physical health and safety of the child.

(2) A medical provider or law enforcement agency shall keep the identity of a parent who relinquishes a child under this section confidential and shall not release or otherwise make the identity of the parent available except to a:

(A) Law enforcement agency investigating abuse or neglect of the child that was committed before the child was delivered to the medical provider or law enforcement agency; or

(B) Prosecuting attorney pursuing charges against a parent for abuse or neglect of the child that was committed before the child was delivered to the medical provider or law enforcement agency.

(c) A medical provider or law enforcement agency shall incur no civil or criminal liability for any good faith acts or omissions performed pursuant to this section.

**9-34-203. Care of the child.**

(a) Upon delivery of the child to a law enforcement agency or a medical provider, the law enforcement officer or an appropriate hospital employee shall take the child into protective custody for seventy-two (72) hours under the Child Maltreatment Act, § 12-18-101 et seq.

(b) The law enforcement officer or hospital employee shall immediately notify the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services, which shall initiate a dependency petition pursuant to the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, § 9-27-301 et seq.

**9-34-204. Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse.**

The Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services shall utilize the Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse and any other national and state resources to determine whether the child is a missing child.