



**Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures
Policy 09.03.32**

Section: Clinical Policies	Responsible Vice President: EVP and CEO Health System
Subject: Patient Risk, Treatment, and Safety	Responsible Entity: Nursing

I. Title

Abandoned Infant Policy (Baby Moses)

II. Policy

In compliance with [Texas Family Code, Subchapter D, Section 262.302 – 262.307](#), UTMB requires any staff member who receives or discovers a child, who appears to meet criteria as a Baby Moses case (see above), to ensure that the child is taken immediately to the Emergency Department to determine if any evidence of abuse or neglect is identified.

III. Procedures

Emergency Department staff are responsible for notifying the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services hotline at 1-800-252-5400 (available 24 hours a day) as soon as a child is determined to meet criteria as a Baby Moses case. Staff should wait “not later than the close of the first business day after the date on which a [designated emergency infant care provider](#) takes possession of a child” to notify DFPS.

If the child’s name and date of birth are unknown, the child should be registered using an alias, with a date of birth estimated by medical staff. After an Emergency Room assessment, the infant should be admitted to the appropriate unit and level of care by age and condition. While hospitalized, the infant’s health and safety is a priority.

Staff has no legal duty to ascertain the parent's identity and the parent may remain anonymous. However, the parent may be given a form for voluntary disclosure of the child's medical facts and history, if desired. The Safe Baby Site (SBS) Medical Disclosure form may be obtained on-line in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) or from the Emergency Department Care Managers. The Department of Care Management or Social Worker (Angleton Danbury Campus) staff will coordinate with DFPS regarding discharge disposition.

Staff should not contact law enforcement unless it appears that the child has been abused or neglected.

IV. Relevant Federal and State Statutes

Texas Family Code [Subchapter D, Section 262.302 – 262.307](#)
[Texas Family Code Section 262.003](#)

V. Dates Approved or Amended

<i>Originated: 12/21/2007</i>	
<i>Reviewed with Changes</i>	<i>Reviewed without Changes</i>
08/14/2014	09/26/2017

VI. Contact Information

Nursing Administration – Women & Infants
(409) 772-5610