

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 4: Assessment Section 34: Abandoned Infants	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 9

POLICY OVERVIEW

To make sure an infant is safe and gets the care they need, the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will care for an infant that is found abandoned.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will conduct an assessment regarding allegation of abandonment and will take care, control, and custody of an infant who is less than 12 months old if the parent, guardian, or custodian has:

1. Left the infant in a place that is dangerous to the infant's life or health; or
2. Left the infant in a hospital or medical facility, without a plan to take care of the infant.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 10-13-5: Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children and Missing Endangered Adults](#)
- [IC 31-14-7-1: Presumptions: child's biological father](#)
- [IC 31-9-2-0.5: "Abandoned infant"](#)
- [IC 31-21-2-2: "Abandoned"](#)
- [IC 31-25-3-2: Duties of bureau; access to information](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-5.6\(b\)\(5\): Exceptions to requirement to make reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families](#)
- [45 CFR 1356.21 Foster care maintenance payments program implementation requirements](#)