

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1096 Session of
1991

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, PESCI, ARMSTRONG, JOHNSON, KRUSZEWSKI,
STUBAN, VEON, PISTELLA, FOX, DALEY, FARMER, RICHARDSON,
THOMAS, BISHOP, BELARDI AND MELIO, APRIL 9, 1991

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND YOUTH, APRIL 9, 1991

AN ACT

1 Providing for the prevention of hospital abductions of infants;
2 providing for penalties; and conferring powers and duties on
3 the Department of Health.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Infant
8 Hospital Abduction Prevention Act.

9 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) The number of abductions and attempted abductions of
12 infants from hospitals, while extremely low, has shown a
13 marked increase in the last ten years.

14 (2) The purpose of this act is to reduce the likelihood
15 of abductions in hospitals by requiring that hospitals adopt
16 certain security procedures and inform patients of those
17 procedures and of other optional tests for positive
18 identification of children.

1 Section 3. Definitions.

2 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
3 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
4 context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

6 Section 4. Procedures to prevent infant hospital abductions.

7 (a) Establishment.--A hospital in which newborn children are
8 delivered shall establish procedures designed to reduce the
9 likelihood of abductions of infant patients. Procedures may
10 include, but are not limited to, architectural plans to control
11 access to areas of infant care, video observation of areas of
12 infant care and procedures to identify staff and visitors.

13 (b) Notice.--A hospital shall post in a conspicuous location
14 on its premises information regarding procedures established
15 under subsection (a).

16 Section 5. Information on optional identification tests.

17 A hospital in which newborn children are delivered shall make
18 information available to the parents of a newborn child
19 regarding genetic testing for positive identification of a
20 child, including cost, location and test performer.

21 Section 6. Penalties.

22 A hospital that fails to comply with this act is subject to
23 an administrative penalty of not more than \$200 and may be
24 assessed the costs of the action.

25 Section 7. Department.

26 (a) Administration.--The department shall administer this
27 act.

28 (b) Regulations.--The department shall promulgate
29 regulations to implement subsection (a).

30 Section 8. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 180 days.