



Established in 2004, the National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA) has become the leading subject matter expert in the U.S. for the Safe Haven law and promotes safe alternatives for parents who are unable or unwilling to parent their child across the nation. In partnership with adjacent organizations, state agencies, providers and parents throughout the nation, NSHA strives to prevent and end infant abandonment and the death of innocent children. Our community is currently proposing legislative changes that will extend options for parents seeking to safely surrender. With the abandonment and death of infants on the rise in many places in the US, it is now more important than ever to establish education, outreach and awareness campaigns, and to support crisis services such as our 24/7 hotline. As discussions regarding parenthood are brought to the forefront of legislative discussions, we want to take this opportunity to share the comprehensive approach we take and to ask for your support. While each state in the nation has enacted different Safe Haven laws, we advocate for amendments to be implemented which will advance our mission to prevent and end illegal infant abandonment.

There is currently a lack of awareness and resources available for parents in need and we ask for an opportunity to discuss important directives that will advance both NSHA's and state's life saving efforts across the nation. These directives are included a comprehensive approach:

- An infant may be relinquished up to 30 days old
- An infant may be relinquished to staff at following locations: Fire/EMS station, hospital, Police station including 9-1-1 response to location of a parent in need
- A parent may deliver in the hospital and relinquish infant confidentially
- Designated Safe Haven hotline support services promoted through awareness campaigns that provide all safe options available to a parent
- Signage and education for all state approved Safe Haven providers
- Public awareness campaign (PSA, website, brochures, poster, etc.)
- Reporting of illegal infant abandonment and safe surrender stats

The Safe Haven laws provide a realistic and viable option for those in need. Through our 24/7 hotline, we are also able to educate on other safe alternatives to parenthood including temporary placement and adoption, supporting new parents' ability to choose what is right for them and their newborn.

NSHA has coordinated a federal workgroup with a multifaceted interdisciplinary team including, practitioners, academics and professionals to ensure the need for continuous improvement is realized. Historically, the consensus of our network has allowed for the development of legislation that receives bipartisan support. We reach out to you in an effort to build a partnership that will address our directives listed above and foster change in our community. By improving Safe Haven laws, you will be promoting valuable support services for parents and babies facing crisis situations.

Please call (623) 428-1308 or email Heather Burner at [hburner@nationalsafehavenalliance.org](mailto:hburner@nationalsafehavenalliance.org) for further information.