

National Safe Haven Alliance

Basic Safe Haven Provider Training



NATIONAL SAFE HAVEN ALLIANCE

About Us

Mission: The National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA) equips Safe Haven Providers and parents facing unplanned pregnancies with safe alternatives that prevent infant abandonment while providing holistic care for both parents and babies.

Vision: The National Safe Haven Alliance ensures every parent who is experiencing an unplanned pregnancy is given the resources and opportunity to create a safe post-birth plan for their baby.

24/7 Crisis Hotline: **1-888-510-BABY (2229)**



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Safe Haven Law

- The law provides safe options for a parent that may be unable or unwilling to care for their infant. The Safe Haven Laws allow a parent to anonymously relinquish an unharmed baby to a Safe Haven Provider and the parent will not be prosecuted.
- The law gives a desperate parent a safe alternative and saves the life of a vulnerable infant.
- Each state has a different Safe Haven Law.



Safe Haven Providers

On-duty hospital staff members are considered a Safe Haven Provider in every state.

- Safe Haven Providers differ by state and may include on-duty:
 - Firefighters/EMS Personnel
 - Law Enforcement Officers
 - Free standing Emergency Department staff
 - Church Staff/Volunteers
 - Participating Adoption Agency Staff
 - County Health Department Staff

*Know your state designated Safe Haven providers & locations



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Facilitating Safety

- Priority is to provide a safe and confidential environment for a mother or parent
- Provide all options for a parent in a crisis situation
- Facilitate involvement with NSHA staff for further support, if needed
- Provide resources for the mother or parent, answer all questions
- Encourage women to deliver in the hospital, if possible
- Provide counseling resources for the mother or parent



Options for the Mother/Parent

1. **Parenting:** Discuss what would cause parent to feel they are unable to parent this child, provide necessary resources to parent child. Temporary placement option available.
2. **Adoption:** Utilize adoption experts and resources if a mother is willing to consider this option.
3. **Safe Haven:** This is a life saving, last resort. Provide information regarding the state law, Safe Haven providers, and confidentiality.



What do I do if a newborn is relinquished to me?

- Voluntarily accept the infant and ask the parent if they are willing to provide information about the pregnancy/newborn
- Encourage the mother to receive a medical evaluation, offer after-delivery resources
- Call 911 for medical evaluation and transportation to the nearest Emergency Department. Fire & EMS will notify hospital staff of Safe Haven relinquishment upon arrival
- The newborn will receive a medical evaluation by the ER Dr., be admitted to the hospital for further evaluation, if needed
- Hospital Social Worker will notify DCFS of the Safe Haven relinquishment. DCFS will provide direction regarding placement for newborn upon discharge.



Fire & EMS Safe Haven Response

This applies to states that designate Fire/EMS as a Safe Haven provider.

- Respond to 911 call or crisis team call for surrender
- Voluntarily accept newborn
- Evaluate newborn and transport to nearest hospital
- Offer mother medical evaluation and transport to hospital
- Notify hospital staff of Safe Haven relinquishment prior to arrival, if mother is also transported, mother and infant are admitted separately
- Provide mother/parent opportunity to provide infant information regarding birth or pregnancy, *this is not required
- Provide NSHA hotline for aftercare and counseling resources if needed



Hospital Relinquishment

- Please offer support and safe options to mother/parent in crisis pregnancy situation;
 - Including temporary placement and adoption
 - If chooses to Safe Haven surrender, please offer counseling resources
 - Obtain medical history/information if parent will provide
- Safe Haven surrender of newborn to a staff person at hospital
- Know hospital policy, admit baby using confidential registration
- Contact NSHA Crisis Hotline for support & resources
- Notify DCFS of Safe Haven relinquishment, they will provide instruction regarding temporary custody and placement

*NSHA provides a comprehensive training for healthcare facilities contact NSHA leadership for more information



In-Hospital Delivery

- Discuss all options with mother; parenting including temporary placement, adoption, and Safe Haven relinquishment
- Call NSHA Hotline for process and direction (1-888-510-2229)
- Know hospital policy and process regarding change of name on chart for infant, infant chart is anonymous upon Safe Haven relinquishment (ie. Jane/John Doe)

*Not all states allow parents to surrender while mother and baby are inpatient, please call NSHA Hotline for direction.



What if the child is older than the Safe Haven Law allows?

- Voluntarily accept the child
- Encourage to parent to stay at location to discuss safe placement options such as Safe Families and foster care
- Call NSHA's Crisis Hotline for support and resources (1-888-510-2229)
- Transport child to nearest hospital for evaluation
- If parent leaves, please notify law enforcement and state Department of Child/Family Services



How can NSHA help?

24/7 Crisis Hotline - 1-888-510-BABY (2229)

- Support for mother/parent
- Best practice national model
- Community education campaigns
- National Safe Haven awareness efforts
- Support and training for Safe Haven providers
- Connection to community resources for parent and providers
- Provide option of comprehensive Healthcare System and facility training



NSHA Information

24/7 Crisis Hotline: 1-888-510-BABY(2229)

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This training does not constitute as legal advice.

Legal advice is dependent on the specific circumstance of each situation and should only be provided by a competent lawyer. The information in this presentation is only intended to serve as an overview and does not cover all situations or facets of the law.



**Thank you for your effort in
preventing infant
abandonment!**



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