



National Safe Haven Alliance

General Information

What are Safe Haven Laws?

An unwanted pregnancy can be a traumatic experience. Women may have overwhelming feelings of isolation, fear, or shame that could lead to irrational thoughts or acts, such as unsafely abandoning their baby.

Each year, there are disturbing reports of newborn babies found in dumpsters and other unsafe places. Under your state's Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act, unharmed infants can be left at a designated safe haven location. No questions asked. You don't have to give your name. The police will not be called. Your baby will get medical care and be adopted.

What does the law do?

The law saves babies from unsafe abandonment. It says that parents who do not harm their baby will not be prosecuted for abandonment if they hand their newborn to a responsible adult at a Safe Haven location. It gives a desperate parent a responsible alternative.

Depending on your state, a Safe Haven location can be:

- Staffed fire stations
- Staffed police stations
- **Hospitals: are approved Safe Haven providers in every state**
- Emergency care facilities

Why are states offering Safe Haven Laws?

The purpose of Safe Haven is to protect unwanted babies from being hurt or killed because they were abandoned. You may have heard tragic stories of babies left in dumpsters or public toilets. The parents who committed these acts may have been under severe emotional distress. The mothers may have hidden their pregnancies, fearful of what would happen if their families found out. Because they were afraid and had nowhere to turn for help they abandoned their babies. Safe Haven laws allow parents to make a good choice for their child, and help them move forward in their life as well.

What happens at a Safe Haven?

Newborns brought to a designated safe haven location will be cared for immediately. The parent relinquishing the newborn will not be forced to talk to anyone or answer questions. A packet of information may be given to the parent. The baby will be examined at a hospital and the process of adoption will begin.

What happens to the baby?

The child will be examined and given medical treatment, if needed. Your state's social services organization will work to make sure the child is placed with an appropriate caregiver or adoptive family.

What's the difference between Safe Haven and Adoption?

To place an infant for adoption, you must make an adoption plan and enter into a legal contract where you forfeit your right to custody of your child. The benefits of adoption include your ability to choose the parents for your infant. If you choose to use the Baby Safe Haven law in your state, there is no required paperwork or contracts. The process is anonymous, so long as your baby is unharmed. Baby Safe Haven laws allow you to give your baby to a responsible adult at a designated location, and walk away, no questions asked. If you do not return to reclaim your baby, your parental rights will be terminated in a few months, and the child will be adopted by a family waiting for a child.

Are you or someone you know in need?

We have a safe place for their newborn. They might be scared and alone, but they are not out of options. No one knew they were pregnant. No one knows about their baby. They can't take care of their baby. What are they going to do? If you or someone you know is pregnant and desperate, don't panic. Help is available!

For confidential information or help,

Please contact us 1.888.510.2229(BABY)

Or visit the National Safe Haven Alliance at: www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org