

**No Shame.
No Blame.
No Names.**



**Illinois has a
safe place for
your newborn.**

Where are safe havens?

In Illinois, safe havens for newborns are:



- Staffed fire stations
- Staffed police stations
- Hospitals
- Emergency care facilities

Look for this sign to identify safe havens in your community.

What does the law do?

The law is intended to provide an alternative to the parents of newborn infants to relinquish their unharmed infants to staff in safe havens while remaining anonymous and avoiding civil or criminal liability. It is recognized that establishing a traditional adoption plan through a private or public adoption agency or choosing to parent the child is a preferable parenting plan to abandonment or relinquishment of an infant. However, the purpose of this law is to reduce the risk of harm to a newborn by a parent who may be under undue stress.

What happens at a safe haven?

Newborns can be handed to personnel at a hospital, emergency care facility, staffed police station or staffed fire station. Staff members at emergency care facilities, fire stations and police stations will make arrangements for transportation of the infant to the nearest hospital.

Hospital personnel will conduct a physical examination of the newborn infant and provide any needed medical care. The hospital is deemed to have temporary protective custody of the newborn until the infant is discharged to an adoption agency.

If you wish, you can fill out forms to provide medical information about your newborn that will help healthcare workers taking care of your baby. The forms may be filled out at the safe haven

location, or you can take the forms with you and return them by mail. You can also download the forms from www.saveabandonedbabies.org or www.state.il.us/dcf/library/com_communications_sumlicen_abinfant.shtml. All of the information that you provide remains confidential. You do not need to give your name.

Parental rights

There is a presumption that by relinquishing a newborn infant at a safe haven, the infant's parent consents to the termination of his or her parental rights with respect to the infant.

Consider adoption

Every child deserves a safe, loving, permanent home. You can help provide this by making an adoption plan, even before giving birth. Several public and private agencies in Illinois provide services to those who choose to allow their child to be adopted. Agency staff carefully interview and check the backgrounds of prospective adoptive parents to make sure that they:

- Have no criminal or child abuse history
- Have room in their home for a child
- Can support the child financially
- Can provide a loving, safe home

For information about adoption, please call the Illinois Adoption Registry: 1-877-323-5299 (toll-free in Illinois) or www.idph.state.il.us/vital/iladoptreg.htm.