



Don't Panic - Don't Abandon Your Baby Learn About Safe Haven Laws

**SAFE HAVEN LAWS ALLOW A PARENT OF A NEW INFANT LESS THAN 72 HOURS OLD
TO BE RELINQUISHED TO A SAFE HAVEN PROVIDER!**

WHO IS A SAFE HAVEN PROVIDER:

- Local law enforcement officers
- Emergency medical technicians
- Hospital staff members
- NO ACCESS TO THE ABOVE? CALL 911 OR YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER

PROTECTIONS FOR PARENTS YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS!

The parent relinquishing the child and the person assisting the parent in relinquishing the child has the right to remain anonymous. The parent or the assisting person shall not be compelled to disclose any identifying information. However, they may be forced to disclose information if there is a reasonable cause to suspect that the child has been a victim of abuse or neglect; or that the person assisting the parent is coercing the parent to relinquish custody of the child.

Similarly, the parent or assisting person may leave the premises of the safe surrender site at any time after surrendering the child. They may not be followed unless there is a reasonable cause to believe that the child was subject to child abuse or neglect; or that the person assisting the parent is coercing the parent to relinquish custody of the child.

Once the safe haven provider has notified the local child welfare department that an infant has been relinquished, the department assumes custody of the infant. The department has responsibility for placing the infant, usually in a pre-adoptive home, and for petitioning the court for termination of the birth parents' parental rights.

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