

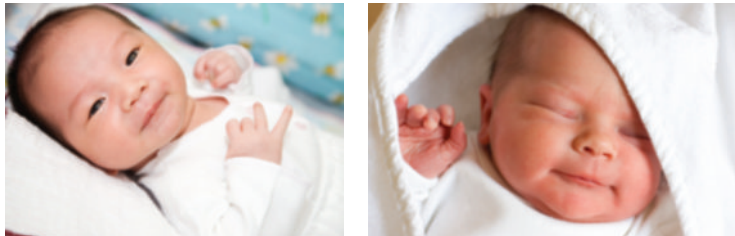


Safe Haven provides a safe, legal,
last resort to abandonment.
For more information about the Safe Haven Law,
call 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373),
visit www.LouisianaSafeHaven.com
or contact your local DCFS office.



1-800-CHILDREN is supported by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana

**NO PLACE
TO TURN?**
LOUISIANA'S SAFE HAVEN LAW
It's a safe, legal and anonymous last resort
to abandonment for you and your newborn.
Choose a Safe Haven.



DESIGNATED SAFE HAVEN LOCATIONS

- Licensed Hospitals
- Public Health Units
- Emergency Medical Service Providers
- Medical Clinics
- Fire Stations
- Police Stations
- Pregnancy Crisis Centers
- Child Advocacy Centers

If a parent is unable to travel to a **Safe Haven** facility, he or she may call 911, and a law enforcement officer or EMS provider will pick up the baby and transport the child to a hospital.



www.LouisianaSafeHaven.com

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SAFE BABY SITE



1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)
LOUISIANASAFEHAVEN.COM



IT'S SAFE

If you find yourself with no other alternative and are considering abandoning your baby, **Louisiana's Safe Haven Law** provides a safe place for your child. If you are unable to care for your baby and the baby's well-being is in danger, you can bring the newborn up to 60 days old to an emergency designated facility or **Safe Haven** site. By leaving the baby in the care of an employee at a **Safe Haven** facility, parents can give up custody of the newborn with no questions asked.

Parents who would like to give up custody of their child, but whose child is not in immediate danger of harm, are encouraged to use a planned, permanent adoption through an adoption agency that accounts for medical and genetic history.



IT'S LEGAL

Employees at designated **Safe Havens** are trained to keep a newborn safe and the situation confidential.

As long as the parent leaves their baby with an employee and the baby shows no signs of abuse or neglect, the parent can simply walk away knowing that their baby will be safe.

Leaving a baby unattended, on a doorstep or in a bathroom, for instance, is illegal and will not meet the criteria of the **Safe Haven Law**.



IT'S ANONYMOUS

Parents do not have to give their name or any other information. **Safe Haven** employees keep everything confidential. Parents can call **1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)** to learn about their parental rights or anonymously give medical information about their baby to be used for adoption purposes.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Go to the nearest **Safe Haven** facility (i.e. hospital, public health unit, EMS unit, medical clinic, fire or police station, pregnancy crisis center or child advocacy center).
2. Give the baby to an employee at the facility. Parents should tell the employee that they want to utilize the **Safe Haven Law**.
3. An employee will offer the parent a card with a toll-free number, **1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)**, to call if the parent wants to give medical information about the baby or learn about their parental rights.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BABY?

The baby will be brought to the nearest medical facility for a health assessment and to receive any necessary medical care.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will find a family to care for the baby. DCFS will begin proceedings to obtain custody of the child and safely and legally place the baby in a permanent adoptive family.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PARENT?

As long as the baby shows no signs of abuse or neglect, the parent will be protected by the **Safe Haven Law** and will not be considered guilty of a criminal act of neglect, abandonment or child cruelty.

WHAT IF THE PARENT CHANGES HIS/HER MIND?

The parent can seek to reclaim parental rights within 30 days by contacting their local DCFS office.