

Certainly we would prefer that women call us while they are pregnant, not after giving birth, so we can provide proper medical care and counseling. But at the same time, we want to assure parents who choose not to keep their children that they will not go to jail if they deliver their babies to safe hands in a hospital emergency room or a police station.

Safe Haven

Allows a distressed parent to give up an unwanted infant safely, legally and confidentially

Preserves the parent from arrest or prosecution for abandonment

Requires no names or records

Permits babies up to 30 days old to be given up at any hospital emergency room or police station in New Jersey

Makes medical treatment and social services available to the birth mother

Puts the child into the custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services, which places the infant in a foster or pre-adoptive home

**In New Jersey, no one ever
has to abandon a child again.**

Safe Haven Hotline: 1-877-839-2339

These Numbers Can Also Help

The New Jersey Task Force
on Child Abuse and Neglect
1-609-292-0888

Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-572-SAFE

Child Abuse Hotline
1-877 NJ ABUSE (1-877-652-2873)

Public Assistance
*For more information, contact
your county Board of Social Services*

Food Stamps
1-800-792-9773

Parents Anonymous
1-800-843-5437

Jon S. Corzine
Governor, State of New Jersey

Kevin M. Ryan
Commissioner

New Jersey Department of Children and Families

**no shame.
no blame.
no names.**

**now there's a safe haven
for unwanted infants**

**njsafehaven.org
1-877-839-2339**

Anonymous Medical Questionnaire

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 206 TRENTON NJ

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
DIV OF YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
PO BOX 717
TRENTON NJ 08625-9921

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

What is Safe Haven?

It's a new law: the New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act. Under this law a person may give up an unwanted infant anonymously. As long as the baby has not been abused, the person may do so without fear of arrest or prosecution.

Why is New Jersey doing this?

The purpose of Safe Haven is to protect unwanted babies from being hurt or killed because they were abandoned.

Abandoning a baby puts the infant in extreme danger. Too often, it results in the baby's death. It is also illegal, with severe consequences. But with Safe Haven, this tragedy doesn't have to happen in New Jersey again.

How does it work?

A distressed parent who is unable or unwilling to care for an infant can give up custody of a baby less than 30 days old safely, legally and anonymously. All that is required is that the baby be brought to a hospital emergency room or police station in New Jersey. As long as the child shows no signs of intentional abuse, no name or other information is required.

Can only a parent bring in the baby?

No. The parent may choose to have someone else bring in the infant. It can be a family member, a friend, a priest or minister, a social worker—practically anyone.

Does a parent have to call before bringing in the baby?

No. A parent can walk in anytime.

Can you help a parent decide where to bring the baby?

Yes. The parent can call the Safe Haven Hotline, 1-877-839-2339, and get the address and directions for any hospital or police station in the state.

Does a parent have to tell anything to the people taking the baby?

No. Nothing is required. However, hospital personnel or police will record any information that a parent is willing to share, such as the child's health, race, date of birth, place of birth or the medical history of the parents. This could be very useful in caring for the child. These questions can be answered anonymously on the attached medical questionnaire.

What happens to the baby once the baby is dropped off?

The child will be examined and given medical treatment, if needed. Then the Division of Youth and Family Services will immediately take custody and place the child in a foster or pre-adoptive home. After 21 days, DYFS will proceed with the permanent adoption of the baby.

What happens to the mother when she drops a baby off?

If the mother brings in the baby, she will be offered medical treatment and social services. She can, of course, refuse if she wishes. Once she has safely turned over the baby, she is free to go. She can complete the attached questionnaire and drop it in any mailbox.

Don't let another baby be abandoned. If you or someone you know is considering giving up a child, learn about your options.

Safe Haven Hotline: 1-877-839-2339.

Safe Haven Voluntary Medical Information

Under the Safe Haven law, you do not have to tell us anything, but answering these questions will help us take better care of the child. Please fill out this form with any information you want to share. Then give it to someone in the hospital or mail it in. No stamp is required.

Please tell us what you can about the baby:

Since birth, has the baby been sick?	yes	no	don't know
Any physical handicaps?	yes	no	don't know
Any mental or developmental problems? (for example, the baby never cries or has trouble sucking)	yes	no	don't know

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please give details:

Was child given a name?	yes	no	don't know
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If yes, please give only the child's first and/or middle name:

Date and place of birth?

What is the child's race?	Religious or cultural background?
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Did mother receive medical care during her pregnancy?

	yes	no	don't know
Delivered in a hospital or birthing center?	yes	no	don't know
Was the baby full term (9 months)?	yes	no	don't know

If not, how long was the mother pregnant? _____

What was the birth weight? _____ pounds, _____ ounces

Why is the child being given up? _____

Mother's medical history:

If mother has other children, how many? _____

Race of mother: _____ Age of mother: _____

Did mother ever have a serious medical problem?
(heart disease, blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, etc.)

yes	no	don't know
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History of mental illness? yes no don't know

HIV-positive? yes no don't know

Drug or alcohol abuse? yes no don't know

If yes, was it during the pregnancy? yes no don't know

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please give details:

Father's medical history:

Race of father: _____ Age of father: _____

Did father ever have a serious medical problem?
(heart disease, blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, etc.)

yes	no	don't know
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History of mental illness? yes no don't know

HIV-positive? yes no don't know

Drug or alcohol abuse? yes no don't know

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please give details:

How did you learn about Safe Haven? _____

THANK YOU FOR SHARING THIS INFORMATION