



Safe Haven
It's Legal. It's Safe. It's Anonymous.

To get addresses and directions for any hospital, police station or sheriff's office in Arkansas

please call **1-888-510-BABY**
2 2 2 9

You also can visit our website at
www.arkansassafehaven.org

SAFE HAVEN GUIDELINES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & HOSPITAL PERSONNEL

When a baby is brought to a police station, sheriff's office, State Police headquarters or hospital under Safe Haven, you should:

• Take the baby

The parent can only be charged with a crime if the baby is older than 30 days or if the baby has been abused or neglected.

• Offer support

If the birth mother surrenders the baby, she is free to walk away, but you should always offer to connect her to medical care at a local hospital. For referral to counseling services through a local community mental health center, call 1-501-686-9164 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Services may also be available through a local health unit of the Arkansas Department of Health. For a referral, call 1-800-462-0599 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Explain that by accepting services, she will not give up her legal protections or anonymity guaranteed under the Safe Haven law.

• Don't ask, but if someone tells...

The law requires that you take the baby no questions asked. Whenever possible, hand a Safe Haven medical questionnaire to the person surrendering the baby and stress that mailing the questionnaire will not compromise the parents' legal protections or anonymity.

• Document any information that is offered voluntarily. Useful information would include:

- Any physical or developmental problems the baby may have
- Parent information, such as race, age and medical history
- Baby's birthplace and first name
- Any prenatal care provided to the mother

• Get the baby to the hospital

The baby should be taken immediately to a hospital emergency room, either via patrol car, ambulance or first aid squad. All information shared by the parent should be reported to the emergency room staff.

• Ensure DCFS is notified

The receiving hospital is required to call the Department of Human Services Division of Child and Family Services at 1-888-482-5964. However, police staff also may call when a baby is surrendered to them under the Safe Haven law.