



# Pennsylvania's Safe Haven Law



## What is Save Haven?

**Safe Haven gives mothers a safe, legal and confidential alternative to abandoning their baby.**

**Pennsylvania is one of 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico that have enacted safe haven legislation.**





## How does Safe Haven work?

- **Safe Haven allows parents to place newborns up to 28 days old in the care of any hospital in the state of Pennsylvania without the fear of criminal prosecution as long as the baby has not been harmed.**
- **Babies can be left with any hospital staff member or if a person is unwilling or unable to wait, they will be directed by signs on where to place the baby. At CHP, the person should be directed to the Emergency Department.**



## Why is Safe Haven necessary?

**Some women are unable to parent at a certain time, are sometimes scared, and don't know where to turn, make Safe Haven necessary. Out of fear or shame, some mothers abandon their baby hours after birth. Safe Haven gives parents an option that is both safe for their child and confidential.**



## Who is the target of the Safe Haven program?

In most cases, these mothers are between 15 and 25 years old, and the pregnancy was unplanned. These women are often alone, afraid and unable to follow through with other options after the birth of the baby.





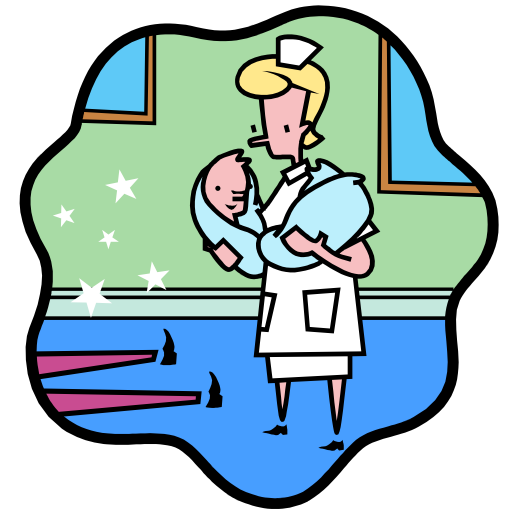
## What happens to the mother/father?

- **No information from the parents is needed and no questions will be asked. The person leaving the baby can provide family medical information if they choose or they can take a health history form to fill out later and mail in anonymously.**
- **As long as the baby is less than 28 days old and not harmed or abused, they will not get into trouble with the police.**



## What happens to the baby?

When a baby is left at the hospital, he or she is in safe hands. A doctor will examine the baby and provide any medical care needed. Then, the local county children and youth agency will take custody of the baby and find him or her a loving family.





**Does it work?**

**Yes!**

**Since Safe Haven's inception in Pennsylvania, 25 babies have been successfully handed over to hospitals and subsequently adopted.**







**Where can you get more information?**

**The Safe Haven website is [www.secretsafe.org](http://www.secretsafe.org)**

**Another great advice and information center for mothers is the Pennsylvania Save Haven Helpline: 1-866-921-SAFE (7233)**

**Children's Hospital Policy #PCTPC100.64  
Newborn Protection/Safe Haven [Click Here](#)**