

You Have Options

Newborns up to three days old can be safely surrendered to any hospital emergency room or other safe haven site in Santa Clara County.

FAST FACTS: THE SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY LAW IN CALIFORNIA

- ◇ To ensure continued safety and protection for children, Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation on October 7, 2005 extending the Safely Surrendered Baby Law (SSB) permanently, beginning January 1, 2006. The SSB law initially was implemented on January 1, 2001 and originally had a five year sunset date.
- ◇ As of October 2006, 162 newborns have been safely surrendered in California, while another 139 infants have been found alive following their illegal abandonment.
- ◇ In 2005, 51 babies were safely surrendered in California, marking the largest yearly total since the SSB law went into effect. Los Angeles County leads the state with 44 babies safely surrendered since the program began.
- ◇ Under the SSB law, within three days of birth, a parent or person with lawful custody can safely surrender a baby confidentially and without fear of prosecution.
- ◇ The SSB law requires the baby be taken to a public or private hospital emergency room, designated fire station, or other safe surrender site. No questions will be asked.
- ◇ The SSB law provides a safe alternative to desperate mothers who are unwilling or unable to keep their babies.
- ◇ Babies who are safely surrendered are given medical treatment and placed in a foster home or pre-adoptive home. At the time of surrender, a bracelet is placed on the baby for identification purposes and a matching bracelet provided to the parent or lawful guardian.
- ◇ A parent or person with lawful custody has up to 14 days from the time of surrender to reclaim their baby.
- ◇ In addition to California, at least 46 other states have enacted laws to discourage baby abandonment.
- ◇ SSB brochures are available, free of charge, to requesting individuals and organizations. Visit www.babysafe.ca.gov for more information.

For more information on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law call (408) 975-5117.

To request a presentation to middle school, high school, or adult group, please contact Frank Motta at (408) 491-6750 or frank.motta@ssa.sccgov.org

