

Safe. Legal.
Anonymous help.

No judgement.

Why is the Safe Place for Newborns law needed?

In response to tragedies involving abandoned newborns, Minnesota enacted the Safe Place for Newborns law providing a safe, anonymous alternative for mothers to legally leave their newborns in the care of others. The law was amended to expand the number of safe places and lengthen the window of time in which mothers have the option to leave their newborns at a safe place under the protection of the law.

Exceptions to the law

Hospital birth

The Safe Place for Newborns law does not apply if mothers give birth in a hospital, as a hospital delivery creates a vital record, and anonymity is no longer possible at that point.

American Indian newborns

If your newborn is of American Indian decent, provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act will apply and counties will contact the nearest tribal social service office to identify the child's family.

There's a safe
way to give up
your newborn.

Bring your newborn to any
Minnesota hospital or
urgent care clinic; or call 9-1-1.

SAFE PLACE
for newborns

For accessible formats of this publication or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-4671 or use your preferred relay service.

SafePlaceMN.org

Scared?

Don't know what to do?

There's a safe way to give up your newborn.

Bring your unharmed newborn, up to seven days old, to a hospital or urgent care clinic; or call 9-1-1 and give your newborn to staff, stating you want to leave your newborn under the Safe Place for Newborns law. They will give shelter, health care, and aid to your newborn.

What is the Safe Place for Newborns law?

The Safe Place for Newborns law provides a safe and anonymous alternative for mothers to safely give up their newborns. Mothers, or someone with your permission, may leave your unharmed newborns, no more than seven days old, with an ambulance dispatched in response to a 9-1-1 call, or at a hospital or health care facility that provides urgent care. The law does not apply if newborns are born in a hospital, have been harmed or are over seven days old.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the law work?

Through the Safe Place for Newborns law, you have a safe place for your newborn if unharmed and dropped off within seven days of birth. You can give up your newborn safely, legally and anonymously.

Where can I leave my newborn?

Leave your newborn at a hospital, health care facility with urgent care medical services during business hours or an ambulance responding to your 9-1-1 call.

What do I say when I leave my newborn?

Give your newborn to one of the staff members and explain that you are leaving your newborn under the Safe Place for Newborns law. They will make sure that the newborn is not harmed in any way and you will then be free to go.

Will they know who I am?

Your confidentiality is protected. It takes a great deal of courage to seek help. Staff will not share any information about you, but may ask the medical history of you and your newborn.