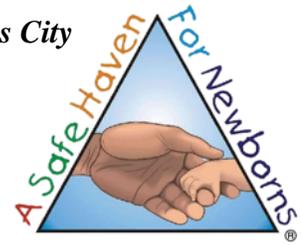


**Press Release**  
*Safe Haven for Newborns Coalition of Greater Kansas City*



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**THIS IS A SAFE HAVEN  
WHEN STAFF ARE PRESENT**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
DIAL 2-1-1 OR (866) 320-5764**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 5, 2011

In observance of April, **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**, Safe Haven Coalition will launch a media campaign, “**No One Ever Has To Abandon a Newborn.**” This message will be posted on billboards and inside city buses around the metro area. United Way Call Center staff at 2-1-1 are prepared to answer questions from callers.

Missouri and Kansas as well as all the other 48 states have some form of the **Safe Haven for Newborns Law**. These laws allow parents to safely relinquish their newborn into the hands of an employee instead of resorting to abandonment or abuse.

- In Kansas, **hospitals, fire stations and city or county health departments** are Safe Havens. The child must be **45 days old or less** and show **no signs of abuse**.
- In Missouri **hospitals, fire stations, police stations, and ambulance stations** are Safe Havens. The child must be **5 days old or less** and show **no signs of abuse**.
- If the **state laws** are followed the parent will not be prosecuted.

The Safe Haven for Newborns Coalition of Greater Kansas City is a large group of community partners whose goal is to raise awareness of the Safe Haven laws in Missouri and Kansas. Mother & Child Health Coalition is a sponsor of this Coalition, and hosts a webpage to share information about the law and the efforts in the metro area to spread the word. For details on the laws in each state, and for other resources such as posters, pamphlets and sample policies, go to [http://mchc.net/programs/safe\\_havens.aspx](http://mchc.net/programs/safe_havens.aspx).

We have knowledgeable spokespersons eager to share information regarding the Coalition’s activities and discuss the Missouri and Kansas Safe Haven laws. Interviews and presentations are available upon request - call Anne Biswell at (816) 283-6242 ext. 226 or email one of the individuals listed at the top of the page.

