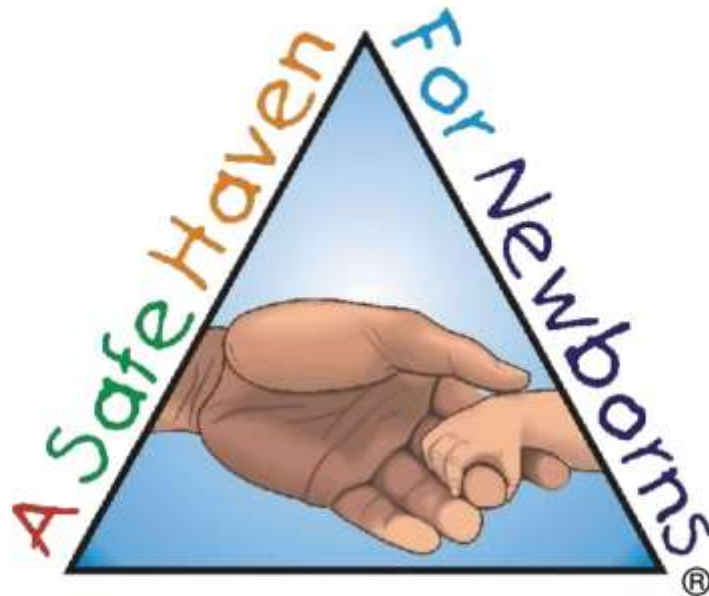


Safe Haven for Newborns



**THIS IS A SAFE HAVEN
WHEN STAFF ARE PRESENT**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
DIAL 2-1-1 OR (866) 320-5764**



2-1-1
Get Help. Give Help.

What Is a Safe Haven Law?

- First law passed in 1999 in Texas called the “Baby Moses law”
- As of July 2008 all 50 states have some form of this law
- Age for legal abandonment differs from state to state and ranges from 36 hours to 1 year old

Local Legislation



- Missouri 2003

Revised Aug 2013

Safe Place for Newborns Act

- Kansas 2006

Proposed revisions 2014

Newborn Infant Protection Act

Where are Safe Havens?



In Missouri: A newborn may be left in the hands of any staff on duty at hospitals, fire stations, ambulance or police stations, maternity homes and pregnancy resource centers.

In Kansas: A newborn may be left in the hands of any staff on duty at hospitals, fire stations, police stations, city or county health departments.

Why Do We Need This Law?

- 4 children die every day in the United States as a result of child abuse.
- 3 out of 4 of these victims are under the age of 4.
- Newborns are at the greatest risk in the first *day* of their life.
- Women need a viable alternative to abandonment, abuse or murder.

Who might use a Safe Haven?

There is very little data but what we have indicates:

- Primarily women.
- Come from all ages, education levels, ethnic backgrounds and income levels.
- Likely have had no prenatal care.
- Are unmarried and not in a relationship with the father of the baby.
- Average age is between 18 and 22 years old.

Why might someone need a Safe Haven?

- Feel unable or unwilling to care for the child.
- Feel isolated and alone.
- Feelings of guilt, shame and fear preclude their decision to abandon.
- The newborn may be the result of incest or rape.
- Abandonment or neonaticide is part of the pregnancy denial and is a way to achieve ultimate closure to a traumatic event.

Georgia's Story

Warning: This video contains graphic images and strong language.



Issues With The Safe Haven Law

- Many are not aware the law exists
- Some fear it will appear we are advocating abandoning babies
- Some find it hard to be empathetic

Supporting the Laws



- No funding in many states
- Low legislative priority

What Can You Do?

- Share information about Safe Haven with your family, friends and neighbors.
- If you work at a facility identified as a Safe Haven, make sure your employer has guidelines.
- Make sure you and your co-workers are aware of your responsibilities.

How Do We Spread the Word?

- Promote public awareness through education in schools and other community groups.
- Collaborate with Safe Havens in the community: hospitals, fire, police.
- Distribute branded signs to identify Safe Haven locations.

Safe Haven for Newborns Coalition of Greater Kansas City



A group of dedicated people and agencies in Kansas and Missouri have come together to promote awareness of the legislation.



“No one ever has to abandon a newborn”

- Agencies will know their responsibilities in receiving a newborn
- The public will know about this alternative



Our Partners

The United Way of Greater Kansas City supports the project with their 2-1-1 Call Centers.

Anyone looking for additional information regarding local Safe Haven sites and resources can call 2-1-1 or (866) 320-5764.



Our Partners

Mother & Child Health Coalition supports the efforts in the greater Kansas City area with a page on their website:

www.mchc.net



Go there for resources, and to learn more about the Safe Haven public awareness project in Missouri and Kansas.

Other Partners



- KCPT produced a [PSA](#) and supports efforts promoting awareness.
- David Francis and the Francis Family Foundation donated Safe Haven signs and facilitates organizational support.
- Nick Silverio, of A Safe Haven For Newborns (FL) shares resources and technical support.
- Many local fire, police, health and community organization staff give of their time and talents to work on community awareness projects.

More Partners



Local funders, including DST Systems, Inc., and Northpointe Family Center have supported the education efforts with project grant funding for public awareness campaigns, including:

- Kansas City ATA Transit (bus) ads
- Billboards

Learn more



Visit us on the web at

<http://mchc.net/programs/safe-haven-newborns/>

Friend us on Facebook! Look for us under "KC Metro Safe Haven." Please comment and share our posts to increase our reach.



Public Awareness Campaign



Public Awareness Campaign



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Public Awareness Campaign



Safe Haven Signs Posted



Safe Haven Signs Posted



Safe Haven Signs Posted

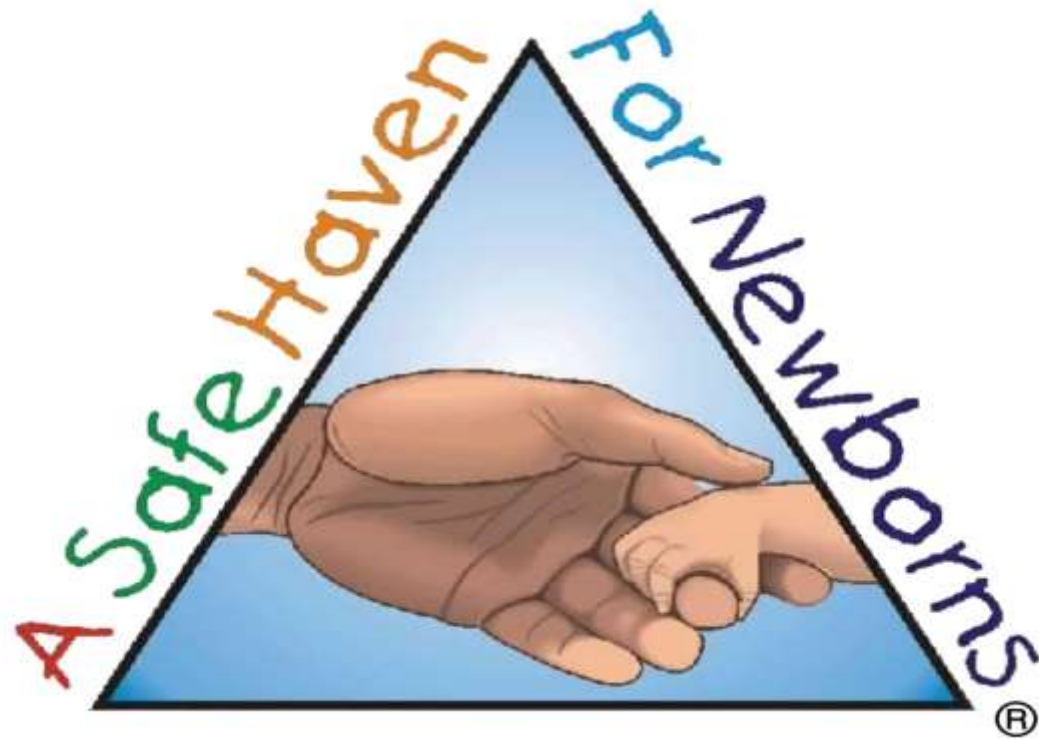


Safe Haven Signs Posted



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