

Press Release
Safe Haven for Newborns Coalition of Greater Kansas City

Contacts for Interviews:

Debby Howland howlandjd@mchsi.com

Susie Girten sgirten@saint-lukes.org

David Francis dfrancis@kc.rr.com



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 28, 2011

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. See below for state specific information:

- In Kansas, **hospitals, fire stations and 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 parents will not be prosecuted.

Today, it was reported that a 38 year old woman gave birth in the bathroom of her house in Kansas City. When police were called, the infant was discovered frozen in the back of a pickup truck.

Was she aware of the Safe Haven law? Did she know there is a safe and legal alternative to abandonment and abuse? An investigation is underway into the circumstances, and she could be facing possible prosecution.

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. To learn more, go to 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. Anne Biswell (816) 283-6242 ext. 226.

Interviews are available upon request.

