

The Rhode Island SAFE HAVEN for Infants Act

What is the SAFE HAVEN for Infants Act?

Any parent (or a person acting on behalf of the parent), may leave a baby 30 days or younger with a staff person at a SAFE HAVEN without being charged with a crime just for giving up the baby.

Where are the SAFE HAVENS in Rhode Island?

A SAFE HAVEN is any:

- Hospital
- Open Medical Emergency Facility
- Fire Station
- Police Station

The Rhode Island
Safe Haven Line
1-800-355-9549

Does the person have to tell anything to the people taking the baby?

The person leaving the baby at a SAFE HAVEN may give information—but is not required to—about the identity of the infant, the mom, the dad, the family or the person leaving the baby at the SAFE HAVEN.

The same is true for the medical history of the baby, parents or other family members.

If information is given, the SAFE HAVEN and DCYF will keep it confidential (as long as no crime has been committed against the baby).

What happens to the person giving up the baby?

A parent or person acting on behalf of a parent will not be charged or prosecuted criminally for leaving the baby at a SAFE HAVEN.

BUT if after a medical exam, it is determined that the baby has been abused or neglected, criminal charges may be brought for that abuse or neglect.

What happens to the baby?

A baby who is left at a SAFE HAVEN will be placed in the temporary custody of DCYF. The baby will be examined and, if necessary, treated by medical professionals.

A baby left at a SAFE HAVEN may become free for adoption after 90 days if no one claims to be the baby's parent before then.

Can a parent ask for the baby back?

A parent can ask for the baby's return within 90 days.

To make that request, a call can be made to **1-800-RI-CHILD,**
or **1-800-742-4453.**

No criminal charges will be filed for having left the baby at a SAFE HAVEN if the parent asks for the baby's return.

This information was prepared by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families pursuant to R.I. General Laws §23-13.1-3b.

The Rhode Island
Safe Haven Line
1-800-355-9549



Safe Haven Website
www.preventchildabuse-ri.org

DCYF
General Information
401-528-3502

- Allows a parent or person acting on behalf of the parent to give up an unwanted infant safely, legally & confidentially.
- No names or records need to be given.
- Protects the parent from arrest or prosecution for child abandonment.
- Allows babies less than 30 days old to be given up at any hospital, open medical emergency facility, fire station or police station in Rhode Island, as long as the baby shows no signs of physical abuse or neglect.
- Places the baby under temporary custody of DCYF in out-of-home care. After 90 days, DCYF files to terminate parental rights, paving the way for permanent home placement.

SAFE HAVEN FOR INFANTS

Legal Rights and Immunity



In Rhode Island,
no one ever has to
abandon a baby.

The purpose of SAFE HAVEN is to protect the baby from being hurt.

A person can leave a baby without fear of prosecution.



Although the person does not have to share any information with the SAFE HAVEN provider, it is helpful if the person does.

Here is the information that is most helpful:

baby's birth date
baby's birth place
baby's medical history
medical history of mother
mother's identity
father's identity

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