

What If I Can't Care for My Baby? Safe Surrender

Information is available by calling
Oregon SafeNet 1-800-723-3638 1-800-SAFENET 503-988-5858
or visiting our website at www.healthoregon.org/asafeplace

For information on "Oregon Voluntary Adoption Registry," visit
www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/adoption

For more information on adoption, counseling, or other social service supports, call the
Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon at 1-800-342-6688.

Not all women who get pregnant are ready to raise a child. Sometimes they see no alternative except to abandon the baby. An Oregon law called A Safe Place for Newborns allows a distressed parent to give up a baby safely, legally, and confidentially.

- **No identifying questions asked.**
- **No judgment or shame.**
- **No one needs to know.**

This is a big decision. Please tell someone you trust that you have a baby.

Because the health and safety of children and parents is important:

- Find out about adoption (see numbers above).
- If you can't, then ensure the baby is left at A Safe Place for Newborns location.

How "A Safe Place for Newborns" law works? Either parent can take the baby to a:

- Hospital
- Birthing Clinic
- Sheriff Office
- Doctor's Office
- Police Station
- Fire Department

When a parent cannot care for an infant, leaving the baby at A Safe Place for Newborns may be the best choice for the child. If the birth parent is not sure about this decision, an adoption social worker can help by providing information on available options and services for birth parents and their babies.

Feeling that you can't take care of your baby may be a sign of depression. Please turn to (page 13) or call 1-800-SAFENET for help.

As long as the baby:

- is 30 days old or younger,
- is handed to a person at one of the above places,
- shows no signs of abuse,

there will be no legal consequences for making this choice.

No identifying questions will be asked, however, it would help the baby if you choose to provide basic health information.

You will be offered a form to give health information. You can fill out the form immediately or you can take it with you to fill out and send in later.

After that:

- You are free to leave at any time.
- If you need support or to talk to someone about this decision, call 1-800-SAFENET.
- The baby will be cared for and will get medical attention if needed.

Remember, if you follow the steps above, and the baby has not been abused, you will not face any legal consequences for making this choice.