

## Health Information for Birth Mothers

Someone who is pregnant and who may want to consider using the Baby Safe Haven law should continue to see a medical provider during the pregnancy. Even if a person is not sure they will be able to care for their baby after it is born, getting medical care is still important for the pregnant person's health.

## Information Hotlines

### National Safe Haven Hotline

(Available 24/7)

1-888-510-BABY, ext. 2229

### Adoption agencies

[hhs.nd.gov/adoption-program/](https://hhs.nd.gov/adoption-program/)

[adoption-agency-lcpa-listing](#)

### Women's Care Center

1-877-908-2341

[womenscarecenter.org/](https://womenscarecenter.org/)

### Additional community resources

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[myfirstlink.org/](https://myfirstlink.org/)



## NORTH DAKOTA Baby Safe Haven

The North Dakota Baby Safe Haven Law (North Dakota Century Code, Chapter 50-25.1-15) allows a parent or a parent's agent (another person acting with the parent's consent) who feels they are unable to take care of their baby under one year of age, to surrender the baby without facing prosecution for abandonment.

To be protected by the Baby Safe Haven Law, the child must be unharmed, under one year of age, and surrendered to an on-duty staff person working for a Baby Safe Haven approved location (locations are listed within this brochure).

## What will happen to the baby?

A health care provider's visit will take place to make sure the baby is healthy and has not been harmed. The child welfare agency will be called to care for the baby and to start looking for a safe and permanent home.

By law, the child welfare agency cannot contact or try to find the parent or the person who surrendered the baby. However, when a baby is left at a hospital following a birth, the hospital may already have some information, such as the names of other relatives, including the other parent. In this situation, these individuals will be contacted in an effort to find a permanent home for the baby.

If there are no suitable or willing relatives to adopt the baby, the child welfare agency will look for another permanent family. A court hearing will be scheduled to terminate the legal rights of both birth parents so the baby can be adopted. Notices of these hearings are published on the Juvenile Court website: [ndcourts.gov/publications](http://ndcourts.gov/publications)

Once parental rights are terminated, birth parents will no longer be the legal parents. This means that they will not be able to make decisions about the baby and the baby can be adopted.

## How does North Dakota Baby Safe Haven work?

Under the North Dakota Baby Safe Haven Law, you can leave the unharmed baby under one year of age with a staff person at:

- Hospital/Emergency Rooms
- Local Public Health Units
- Human Service Zones
- Regional Human Service Centers
- Long term care nursing facilities/homes
- Children's Advocacy Centers
- Emergency medical services operations
  - 911
  - Ambulance
- Criminal Justice Agencies
  - Police stations
  - University or college police
  - Sheriff's offices

You can leave the unharmed baby under one year of age without fear of legal consequences. You do not have to give your name or address to the professional accepting the baby.

You may be asked if you are willing to fill out a form. This form is NOT required. It will, however, help providers give the best care to the baby now and in the future.

## What if I change my mind?

If you change your mind, contact your area Human Service Zone Office.

Find your local zone at:

[hhs.nd.gov/human-service/zones](http://hhs.nd.gov/human-service/zones)

or call the Safe Haven Hotline, 24/7 at 1-888-510-BABY, EXT. 2229.

It is important to contact one of these entities as soon as possible. After legal rights are terminated, birth parents will likely not be able to get their baby back.

For more specific information on the North Dakota Baby Safe Haven Law, visit:

[hhs.nd.gov/cfs/safe-haven](http://hhs.nd.gov/cfs/safe-haven)

For questions about Baby Safe Haven, contact North Dakota Health and Human Services at: [injury@nd.gov](mailto:injury@nd.gov)

