THERE'S A BETTER CHOICE.
SAFELY SURRENDER YOUR BABY.
Any fire station. Any hospital. Any time.
1.877.222.9723
BabySafeLA.org
No shame | No blame | No names
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FIRE STATION
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Some parents of newborns can find themselves in difficult circumstances. Sadly, babies are sometimes harmed or abandoned by parents who feel that they're not ready or able to raise a child. Many of these mothers or fathers are afraid and don't know where to turn for help.

This is why California has a Safely Surrendered Baby Law, which gives parents the choice to legally leave their baby at any hospital or fire station in Los Angeles County.

FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BABY SAFE SURRENDER

1. Your newborn can be surrendered at any hospital or fire station in Los Angeles County up to 72 hours after birth.
2. You must leave your newborn with a fire station or hospital employee.
3. You don't have to provide your name.
4. You will only be asked to voluntarily provide a medical history.
5. You have 14 days to change your mind; a matching bracelet (parent) and anklet (baby) are provided to assist you if you change your mind.

No shame | No blame | No names

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ABOUT THE BABY SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM

In 2002, a task force was created under the guidance of the Children's Planning Council to address newborn abandonment and to develop a strategic plan to prevent this tragedy.

Los Angeles County has worked hard to ensure that the Safely Surrendered Baby Law prevents babies from being abandoned. We're happy to report that this law is doing exactly what it was designed to do: save the lives of innocent babies. Visit BabySafeLA.org to learn more.

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FROM SURRENDER TO ADOPTION: ONE BABY'S STORY

Los Angeles County firefighter Ted and his wife Becki were already parents to two boys. But when they got the call asking if they would be willing to care for a premature baby girl who'd been safely surrendered at a local hospital, they didn't hesitate.

Baby Jenna was tiny, but Ted and Becki felt lucky to be able to take her home. "We had always wanted to adopt," Ted says, "but taking home a vulnerable safely surrendered baby was even better. She had no one, but now she had us. And, more importantly, we had her."

Baby Jenna has filled the longing Ted and Becki had for a daughter—and a sister for their boys. Because her birth parent safely surrendered her when she was born, Jenna is a thriving young girl growing up in a stable and loving family.

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Who is legally allowed to surrender the baby?
Anyone with lawful custody can drop off a newborn within the first 72 hours of birth.

Do you need to call ahead before surrendering a baby?
No. A newborn can be surrendered anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as long as the parent or guardian surrenders the child to an employee of the hospital or fire station.

What information needs to be provided?
The surrendering adult will be asked to fill out a medical history form, which is useful in caring for the child. The form can be returned later and includes a stamped return envelope. No names are required.

What happens to the baby?
After a complete medical exam, the baby will be released and placed in a safe and loving home, and the adoption process will begin.

What happens to the parent or surrendering adult?
Nothing. They may leave at any time after surrendering the baby.

How can a parent get a baby back?
Parents who change their minds can begin the process of reclaiming their baby within 14 days by calling the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services at (800) 540-4000.

If you're unsure of what to do:
You can call the hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and anonymously speak with a counselor about your options or have your questions answered.

1.877.222.9723 or BabySafeLA.org
English, Spanish and 140 other languages spoken.