

Who can bring a baby to a Safe Haven?

You (or a person acting on your behalf) can bring your baby, up to 30 days old, to any Safe Haven in Vermont.

You can do so without fear of being arrested or charged — as long as your baby has not been abused or neglected.

What are Safe Havens in Vermont?

A Safe Haven is any:

- Fire or police station
- Health care facility
- Place of worship
- Adoption agency licensed in Vermont; or
- A place an emergency responder, contacted through 911, agrees to meet you to receive your baby.

Note: Safe Havens may not be staffed 24/7

Who do I leave my baby with?

To be covered by law, you must **physically hand** the baby to a volunteer or employee of a Safe Haven.

You cannot leave the baby alone.

In an emergency, please call 911.

Do I have to call first?

No. You can walk in anytime. The only exception is when you call 911 to arrange to meet an emergency responder who will receive your baby

What will happen to me?

Depending on where you decide to bring your baby, you may be offered medical help, counseling, or other support. You may accept or decline; it's up to you. Once you have safely turned over your baby, you are free to leave.

What will happen to my baby?

People at the Safe Haven will receive your baby, make sure they get any needed medical care, and contact the Department for Children and Families. The Department will place the baby in a pre-adoptive home, start the legal procedures required to terminate parental rights, and then proceed with the baby's adoption.

Will I have to give any information to the person receiving my baby?

No, none is required. However, providing basic health information will help us provide the best possible care for the baby.

What if I change mind?

If you decide that you want to care for your baby, call **1-802-241-0891**. You will be connected with staff with the Department for Children and Families who will explain your options and assist you through the process.

You must act quickly. Without knowing your identity the Court process will move quickly. Once your child has been adopted you may not be able to have any contact with them until they are an adult.

Is there a form I can use to provide my baby's medical history?

Yes. A voluntary medical form is on the back of this panel. The questions on the form may be answered anonymously; you do not need to give your name. If you choose to complete it, we encourage you to leave the form with the person receiving your baby. Or, you can email or mail it in later to the address below.

The Vermont Adoption Registry
280 State Drive, HC 1 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-1030

ahs.DCFsdAdoptionRegistryProgram@vermont.gov

You can also visit our website at
babysafehaven.vermont.gov

Can I provide more information about myself later?

Yes. Absolutely! As your life changes over the next 10, 20, and more years, you may decide that you want your identifying information (e.g. your full name, date of birth, and last known address) to be available to your child should they wish to contact you. However, if you don't want to make your identity known, you may still provide a detailed medical history for your child's record. It is entirely up to you. **To find out more, call the Vermont Adoption Registry at 1-802-241-0906.**

What if I am not sure what to do and I want help?

Please call us at **1-802-241-0891** during normal business hours.

We can answer your questions about the Safe Haven Law. We can also refer you to resources in your area that can:

- Help you find prenatal care and transportation to prenatal appointments.
- Help you find financial assistance and other support if you choose to parent this child.
- Refer you to an adoption agency who can help you make an adoption plan for the baby.

Voluntary Medical History

About the Baby

Baby's first name: _____
(if given)

Sex of baby: _____

Date & time of birth: _____

Place of birth: _____
(Town) (State)

Was the baby premature? Yes No

Does the baby have any special needs?
Yes No

(specify) _____

About the Parent

Check all that are known. Parent who birthed child Parent 2

Asthma
Biopolar Disorder Depression
Diabetes
Cancer
Epilepsy or seizures
Headashes or migraines
Heart disease
Hepatitis
High blood pressure
Schizophrenia

During pregnancy did you: Yes No

Use alcohol
Use tobacco
Use other drugs
Experience intimate partner violence

Other/Additional health information:

Date baby was received: _____

Safe Haven: _____

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Not ready to be
a parent?

THERE IS A SAFE WAY.
*Safe Havens for
Babies in Vermont*

 **VERMONT**
DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION