

Guidelines for Safe Havens In Vermont

Vermont's Baby Safe Haven Law offers parents safe places they can relinquish their babies, up to 30 days old, without fear of being arrested or criminally charged as long as their babies have not been abused or neglected.

Safe havens include fire and police stations, health care facilities, places of worship, adoption agencies licensed in Vermont, and anywhere an emergency responder, contacted through 911, agrees to meet someone to receive a baby.

Important To Know

- You may receive a baby at any time.
 - To be covered by the law, the person must hand the baby to an employee or volunteer.
 - Staff and volunteers of safe havens are immune from civil or criminal liability for actions taken to fulfill their duties under this law.
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Protocol For Safe Havens

If you are presented with a Safe Haven baby, the following guidelines will help you carry out your responsibilities under this law.

1. Take physical custody of the baby.
2. Dial 911.
3. Advise the dispatcher that you have physical custody of a baby abandoned under the Baby Safe Haven law.
4. Ask the dispatcher to send:
 - An ambulance to transport the baby to the nearest hospital, and
 - A police officer to take legal custody of the baby.
5. Let the dispatcher know if the baby appears to be in immediate danger.
6. Immediately call DCF at 1-800-649-5285 to make a report.
7. If the person comes back to request the return of the baby and the baby is still there, do not give the baby back. Instead, instruct the person to call 1-800-649-5285.