



— Missouri's — **Safe Place for Newborns Law**

Missouri's Safe Place for Newborns Law allows a parent to give up their baby without criminal consequences if they feel they are unable to care for it, as long as the baby is younger than 45 days old and it's done safely and according to law.

What do I do when a parent arrives with an infant?

Confirm the following:

- They are the parent or they are acting on the parent's behalf
- The infant is less than one year old
- They are aware their parental rights will be terminated
- They know the decision is permanent
- They know the other parent has rights

You should then **IMMEDIATELY** take the child to the nearest hospital for any necessary treatment. Hospital staff are required to notify the Children's Division and local juvenile office.

NOTE: If the other parent would like custody of the infant, they must take steps to establish parentage within 30 days of the juvenile officer filing a public notice.

Who can take custody of infants?

You can take in an infant if you are a:

- Law enforcement officer
- Firefighter
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Staff at a maternity home, hospital, or pregnancy center

Authorized personnel are immune from civil, criminal, and administrative liability for accepting physical custody of a child (up to one year old), if the person acts in good faith and arranges for transportation of the child to the nearest hospital.

Questions?

For more information, call **1-800-392-3738** or visit tinyurl.com/SafePlaceForNewborns