

SAFE PLACE *For Newborns*



If you need to give up your newborn
you have a **safe** choice.

What is Missouri's Safe Place for Newborns Act?

Section 210.950 RSMo, **Missouri's Safe Place for Newborns Act**, allows parents to voluntarily give up their newborn up to 90 days old without prosecution, as long as it is done safely and according to law.

Parents who choose to voluntarily give up their child, who is between 90 days and one year old, can use this law as an affirmative defense to prosecution related to child abandonment or child endangerment if the child was given up safely and according to law.

Before making this decision, you should know:

- This is permanent
- The newborn must not have been abused or neglected by the parent prior to the voluntary surrender
- The newborn must be surrendered to a newborn safety incubator (i.e. a Safe Haven Baby Box) or left with an appropriate professional (listed below) and
- The other parent has rights



Where can I safely give up my baby?

According to the Missouri's Safe Place for Newborns Act, you may leave your newborn in a newborn safety incubator or with any of the following professionals:



An employee, agent, or staff member of any hospital, maternity home, or pregnancy resource center in a health care provider position or on duty in a nonmedical paid or volunteer position



On duty Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)



On duty firefighter



Law enforcement officer (whether on duty or off duty)

Your newborn will be safe and protected.

Newborns will receive any medical treatment necessary and the Children's Division will be notified to help find a safe, stable home with a nurturing family.