

SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY LAW

EXHIBIT G

**No shame.
No blame.
No names.**

Newborns can be safely given up
at any Los Angeles County
hospital emergency room or fire station.



In Los Angeles County:
1-877-BABY SAFE
1-877-222-9723
www.babysafela.org



State of California
Gray Davis, Governor

Health and Human Services Agency
Grantland Johnson, Secretary

Department of Social Services
Rita Saevy, Director



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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Zev Yaroslavsky, Supervisor, Third District
Don Knabe, Supervisor, Fourth District
Michael D. Antonovich, Supervisor, Fifth District

This initiative is also supported by First 6 LA and INFO LINE of Los Angeles

Sin pena. Sin culpa. Sin peligro.

Los recién nacidos pueden ser entregados en forma segura en la sala de emergencia de cualquier hospital o en un cuartel de bomberos del Condado de Los Angeles.



En el Condado de Los Angeles

1-877-BABY SAFE

1-877-222-9723

www.babysafe.org



Estado de California
Gobernador

Agencia de Servicios Sociales
Comisión de Niños y Jóvenes

Departamento de Servicios Sociales

Director



Consejo de Supervisores del Condado de Los Angeles

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Michael D. Williams, Supervisor, Quinto Distrito

Esta iniciativa fue financiada por el programa de LA 911 LINE de Los Angeles.

What is the Steady Surrendered Baby Law?
California's Steady Surrendered Baby Law allows parents to give up their baby confidentially. As long as the baby has not been abused or neglected, parents may give up their newborn without fear of arrest or prosecution.

How does it work?
A distressed parent who is unable or unwilling to care for a baby can legally, confidentially and safely give up a baby within three days of birth. The baby must be handed to an employee at a Los Angeles County emergency room or fire station. As long as the child shows no signs of abuse or neglect, no names or other information is required. In case the parent changes the other mind at a later date and wants the baby back, workers will use knowledge to help connect them to each other. One hospital will be placed on the baby, and a matching hospital will be open to the parent.

What if a parent wants the baby back?
Parents who change their minds can begin the process of reclaiming their newborns within 14 days. These parents should call the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services at 1-800-644-0000.

Can only a parent bring in the baby?
In most cases, a parent will bring in the baby. The law allows other people to bring in the baby if they have legal custody.

Does the parent have to call before bringing in the baby?
No. A parent can bring in a baby anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so long as the parent gives the baby to someone who works at the hospital or the station.

Does a parent have to tell anything to the people taking the baby?
No. However, hospital personnel will ask the parent to fill out a questionnaire designed to gather important medical history information, which is very useful in caring for the child. Although encouraged, filling out the questionnaire is not required.

What happens to the baby?
The baby will be examined and given medical treatment, if needed. Then the baby will be placed in a pre-adoptive home.

What happens to the parent?
Once the parent(s) has safely turned over the baby, they are free to go.

Why is California doing this?
The purpose of the Steady Surrendered Baby Law is to protect babies from being abandoned by their parents and potentially being hurt or killed. You may have heard tragic stories of babies left in dumpsters or public restrooms. The parents who committed these acts may have been under severe emotional distress. The children may have hidden fear, pain, and a sense of who would happen if their families found out. Because they were afraid and had nowhere to turn for help, they abandoned their infants. Abandoning a baby puts the child in extreme danger. It is also illegal. Too often, it results in the baby's death. Because of the Steady Surrendered Baby Law, this tragedy doesn't ever have to happen in California again.

A baby's story
At 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2002, a healthy newborn baby was brought to St. Barnabas Medical Center in San Bernardino under the provisions of the California Steady Surrendered Baby Law. As the law states, the baby's mother did not have to identify herself. When the baby was brought to the emergency room, he was escorted by a pediatrician, who determined that the baby was healthy and doing fine. He was placed with a loving family who the adoption process was started.

Every baby deserves a chance for a healthy life. If someone you know is considering abandoning a newborn, let her know there are other options.

It is best that women seek help to receive proper medical care and counseling while they are pregnant. But at the same time, we want to assure parents who choose not to keep their baby that they will not go to jail if they deliver their babies to safe hands in any Los Angeles County Hospital ER or fire station.