

SAFE HAVEN LAW FOR NEWBORN BABIES

A Guide for Hospitals

If a mother or the mother's designee comes to the hospital and wants to give up a newborn baby hospital personnel should take the following steps:



1 Take the baby, thank the mother or designee and confirm that they have the right to remain anonymous under the law (do not call police or security).

2 Under the law the mother does not have to supply any information. The mother's identity is to remain completely anonymous. You may accept any information the mother willingly provides.

3 Have appropriate personnel give the baby a medical exam and provide any needed medical care. Document any possible abuse or neglect.

4 Call the Utah Division of Child and Family Services ("DCFS") at 801-538-4100 within twenty four hours of receiving the baby as they will have legal custody. Do not give the baby to anyone else but DCFS. Only DCFS can assume legal custody under the law for the baby.

5 Prepare a birth certificate or foundling certificate to give to DCFS when they arrive to take legal custody of the baby.

6 Bill Medicaid for any medical services provided to the baby.

