NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT of Health & Human Services

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November 13, 2008

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24th Instance of Safe Haven Law Occurred

Lincoln - Todd Landry, director of the Division of Children and Family Services for the Department of Health and Human Services, said two Douglas County siblings, a 14-year-old boy and a 17-year old girl, were left at Methodist Hospital through LB 157, Nebraska's "safe haven" law.

Landry said the youths' mother left them at the hospital this afternoon. The 17-year-old left the hospital before law enforcement arrived and had not yet been located. The 14-year-old is in the state's temporary custody. The Department is in the process of gathering additional information.

This is the 24th instance of use of LB 157, and these are the 32nd and 33rd children left at a hospital under the law since September 13. LB 157 went into effect on July 18.

More information about Nebraska's safe haven law, as well as information about local resources for families, can be found on the Department's Website at

http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/Children_Family_Services/Pages/SafeHaven.aspx -30-