



Nebraska's Newborn Safe Haven Act – Best Practices for Providers

Effective July 19, 2024, Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-4903 allows a baby up to **ninety** days old, to be left with an employee on duty at:

- a) A hospital licensed by the State of Nebraska;
- b) A staffed fire station;
- c) A staffed law enforcement agency; or
- d) An emergency care provider.

Individuals are protected from prosecution for any crime based solely on the act of surrendering a baby in accordance with the law.

Best Practices for Safe Haven Providers

- Review and update policies and procedures related to the Newborn Safe Haven Act.
- Display the Nebraska Safe Haven window decal. This is optional but highly encouraged as it helps individuals know where to safely surrender a baby. It is offered at no cost to agencies.
- Train and prepare staff to receive a baby if a surrender occurs at your location. The individual will likely be in crisis, so it is crucial to remain calm and offer support.
- Offer the parent a location where they can have time to consider alternatives to surrender. Call the National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA) crisis line, they can help provide resources and support to the parent. The NSHA crisis line is available 24/7 at **1-888-510-BABY (2229)**.
- Accept the baby, even if they appear to be over 90 days old.
- Ask the parent if they are willing to provide information such as the date, time, and location of the birth; any pregnancy or delivery complications; any known health concerns for the baby, the father or mother; if the baby has any tribal affiliation, the name of the tribe; any other information about the baby's medical, social, and family history. Do not pressure them for this information, they are not required to provide it.
- Provide any immediate medical care the baby may require.
- Contact local law enforcement. They will respond and coordinate with DHHS for placement. Stay with the baby until law enforcement arrives.
- If the surrendering parent contacts you regarding reclaiming custody of the baby, direct them to contact the DHHS Abuse/Neglect Hotline at 1-800-652-1999.

Resources

DHHS Safe Haven Website: safehaven.ne.gov

National Safe Haven Alliance: 1-888-510-BABY (2229)
<https://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/resources>

Nebraska Family Helpline: 1-888-866-8660
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Family-Helpline.aspx>