

Safe Delivery Communications Toolkit

Help Spread the Word and Save Lives!

Often, the message of Safe Delivery does not get shared until it's too late. Until a baby has been abandoned or murdered.

These stories are newsworthy and need to be covered, but proactive stories are even more important as we work together to prevent these infant abandonments and deaths from occurring.

Please take advantage of any opportunities to educate the public about the safe, legal and anonymous alternative provided by the Safe Delivery Law.

Snippets:

Spread the word via your websites, newsletters and social media.

- #SafeDelivery allows parents to surrender their newborn child no more than 72 hours old to an employee inside and on duty at any hospital, fire department, police station, or by calling 911. michigan.gov/safedelivery
- #SafeDelivery is a safe, legal and anonymous alternative to abandonment or murder and releases the newborn for placement with an adoptive family. michigan.gov/safedelivery
- Feeling scared and unsure about your pregnancy? Call the #SafeDelivery hotline to discuss your options: 866-733-7733. michigan.gov/safedelivery
- #SafeDelivery for newborn babies is safe, legal, and anonymous. michigan.gov/safedelivery
- #SafeDelivery gives new parents options; learn more today at michigan.gov/safedelivery.
- Are you unsure about keeping your unborn baby? #SafeDelivery can provide a happy ending to what otherwise seems like a desperate situation. michigan.gov/safedelivery
- Michigan's #SafeDelivery law gives options to parents who may not want to keep their newborn baby. michigan.gov/safedelivery
- Michigan's #SafeDelivery law allows for the safe, anonymous and legal surrender of a newborn. michigan.gov/safedelivery
- Michigan's #SafeDelivery law allows parents to surrender a newborn within 72 hours of birth: michigan.gov/safedelivery.
- Facing an unexpected pregnancy? There are safe, anonymous ways to surrender your baby: michigan.gov/safedelivery.
- Please don't abandon your baby. Surrender your baby to an on duty employee at any hospital, fire department, police station, or by calling 911. michigan.gov/safedelivery #SafeDelivery

Press Release

Consider submitting a press release to your local media outlets that focuses on:

- Where an infant can be safely surrendered
- Parent(s) can surrender anonymously
- Criminal charges will not be filed for surrendering through the Safe Delivery Law
- Number of surrenders since 1/1/2001 found at www.michigan.gov/safedelivery
- Adoption alternatives

Below is a sample press release for your use.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Date

CONTACT: Name, phone number

Safe Delivery of Newborns Law Saves the Lives of Newborns in Danger of Infant Abandonment or Death

City, State - Parents with an unexpected pregnancy who believe they are unable to raise their newborn child have options to safely, legally and anonymously leave an infant no more than 72 hours old in safe places. Parents can surrender their infant to an emergency service provider. An emergency service provider is a uniformed or otherwise identified employee or contractor of a fire department, hospital or police station that is inside the building and on duty, or a paramedic or emergency medical technician who responds to a 911 call.

The law allows a parent to surrender an infant without breaking any laws or giving any identifying information. Although the parent remains anonymous, he or she is encouraged to provide family and medical background that could be useful to the child in the future. After the newborn is placed in the temporary protective custody of the emergency service provider, the infant is examined at a hospital and if no signs of abuse or neglect are found, the infant is released to the temporary protective custody of an adoption agency for placement with an approved prospective adoptive family.

Since 2001, the Safe Delivery of Newborns Law has helped save 155 infants from being abandoned in unsafe locations. *(Updated stats are on www.michigan.gov/safedelivery)*

Parents, professionals and the general public can visit www.michigan.gov/safedelivery for more information or call the toll-free 24-hour hotline at 866-733-7733. Free resources are available to promote public and professional awareness.

Talking Points

- Surrendering parents may remain completely anonymous when surrendering an infant.
- Surrendering parents may choose to share identifying information with assurances that this information will remain confidential.
- Only the biological parents may legally surrender an infant.
- The infant must be surrendered to an on duty employee who is inside a hospital, fire department or police station or by calling 911 and surrendering to an EMT or paramedic.
- The surrendered infant must not be more than 72 hours old.
- A physician will determine the age of the infant.
- The surrendering parent and non-surrendering parent have 28 days from the date of surrender or notice of surrender to change their mind about the surrender.
- A surrendered infant is not placed in a foster care home.
- A surrendered infant is placed with a studied and approved prospective adoptive family.
- The child placing agency that assumes temporary protective custody of the infant is mandated to make a reasonable effort to identify and locate the non-surrendering parent.

Web and social images: Right click on each image for "Save as Picture" option.

#SafeDelivery

Anonymously surrender a newborn within 72 hours
of birth to an emergency service provider



www.michigan.gov/SafeDelivery



Please Don't Abandon Your Baby

You can surrender your newborn baby no more than 72 hours old to an employee who is inside and on duty at a hospital, fire department, police station, or by calling 9-1-1.

Surrendering your baby is safe, legal and anonymous.



(1"x2" website button)

Logo:

Please do not alter the logo in any way. When resizing, be sure to constrain proportions.



For More Information:

Website: www.michigan.gov/safedelivery

Hotline: 1-866-733-7733