

Michigan's Safe Delivery of Newborns Fact Sheet

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Background:

Michigan's Safe Delivery of Newborns law is a safe, legal, and confidential alternative for parents wishing to surrender their baby. More than 200 newborn babies have been surrendered through this program to date.

Summary of Safe Delivery:

A baby, up to three days old, can be taken to a fire department, hospital or police station and surrendered to any staff person working inside the building. You can also give up your baby to a paramedic or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) by calling 9-1-1. You may give up your baby without giving any information about yourself or the baby to the emergency service provider.

What should you, as the surrendering parent, know?

- When you surrender your baby, they will be sent to a child-placing agency to be placed with a pre-approved adoptive family.
- You may petition the court to regain custody of the newborn within 28 days of surrender.
- After the 28 days, there will be a hearing to terminate parental rights.
- There will be a public notice of the hearing, but the notice will not show your name, even if it's known.
- You will not receive personal notice of this hearing, even if you have provided a name and address to the emergency service provider.
- Any information you provide to the emergency service provider will be kept confidential.
- You may file a consent to release identifying information with the Adoption Central Registry.

What happens to the baby?

- The baby will be placed for adoption once parental rights have been legally terminated.

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Does the non-surrendering parent need to know?

- It is required that reasonable attempt to identify the non-surrendering parent for the baby to be placed for adoption.
- Within 28 days of surrender, the child-placing agency will make reasonable efforts to identify, locate, and provide notice of the surrender of the newborn to the non-surrendering parent.

Can the parent provide background information?

Yes. You can:

- Identify yourself and the other parent
- Provide information about prenatal care
- Provide the family medical history
- Sign a release of parental rights
- Receive information about confidential medical care

For more information call the 24/7
Safe Delivery Hotline:
1-866-733-7733

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