

Arizona Safe Haven Training



ARIZONA SAFE BABY HAVEN FOUNDATION

Welcome to the Arizona Safe Haven training!

This course is designed to help Safe Haven providers effectively respond when a parent surrenders an infant under the Safe Haven laws. Information in this course is specifically for Safe Haven surrenders in the state of Arizona.

Estimated Course Length

20 minutes

Course Objectives

- the intent of the Arizona Safe Haven laws
- procedures to follow during an infant surrender
- resources available to providers and parents
- the legal protections for providers and parents
- where an infant can be legally surrendered

About This Course

This course was developed by the Arizona Safe Baby Haven Foundation. The Foundation promotes Safe Haven education and awareness of the existing Safe Haven law in Arizona to prevent the illegal abandonment of infants, while providing support to parents facing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy.

As a grassroots non-profit organization, the Arizona Safe Baby Haven Foundation is operated through individual, corporate, and foundation donations. Since 2010, the Foundation has been recognized as a 510(c)(3) non-profit in Arizona.

The Arizona Safe Baby Haven Foundation provides a 24/7 Crisis Hotline for providers and parents at 1-866-707-2229.

Safe Haven Laws



Safe Haven Laws

The state of Texas passed the first Safe Haven laws in 1999. Within nine years, all other states had passed their own version of the laws. The laws are intended to protect infants who may be abandoned by their parents in dangerous locations.

While the name and language of the laws vary from state to state, the laws share some common themes:

- ① The laws allow parents to safely surrender their newborn in a designated location.
- ② The surrendered infant is protected and cared for until a permanent home can be found for them.
- ③ The intent of Safe Haven laws allow the parent to be protected from criminal liability or prosecution in the event they surrender their infant to a Safe Haven.
- ④ The laws are designed to grant immunity to Safe Haven providers when accepting a surrendered infant.





Arizona Safe Haven Laws

In this course, we will discuss the laws and procedures that directly apply to the state of Arizona.

In Arizona, the Safe Haven laws allow a parent or agent of the parent to surrender an unharmed infant who is 30 days old or younger to a staff member at a designated Safe Haven location. Designated locations are required to display a public notice indicating they are a Safe Haven provider.

Locations include the following:

- Any hospital
- On-duty EMT station
- On-duty fire station
- Designated child welfare agency
- Designated adoption agency
- Designated church

An infant may also be placed into a designated Safe Haven infant drawer at a hospital.



Arizona Safe Haven Laws

Additionally, the Safe Haven laws allow Safe Haven providers criminal and civil immunity for injury or other damages to the infant unless such injury or other damage to the infant was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct by such personnel. The parent's rights are terminated when the Safe Haven request is made.

Approved
Locations



Safe Haven Locations

As you learned in the last lesson, there are several designated locations where a parent can safely and legally surrender their infant in Arizona.



The infant must be delivered to a medical staff member at a hospital, unless the hospital has a Safe Haven drawer



The infant must be surrendered to an on-duty firefighter at a fire station



If a hospital is equipped with a Safe Haven drawer, the infant may be surrendered in the drawer without notifying staff

Safe Haven Locations



The infant must be surrendered to an on-duty EMT at an EMS station



The infant must be surrendered to a staff member or volunteer at a designated child welfare or adoption agency



The infant must be surrendered to a staff member or volunteer at a designated church

Safe Haven Signage

Safe Haven locations must provide public notice that meets the following requirements:

- Placed in a location that is clearly visible to the public.
- Signage must include the words “BABY SAFE HAVEN” in bold, all-capital letters. Each letter must be at least 2 inches tall.
- A Safe Haven logo may be included.
- All hospitals, on-duty fire stations and on-duty EMS stations are designated locations, even if a sign is not displayed.
- Only churches, child welfare agencies, and private adoption agencies that display Safe Haven signage are designated locations.



Best Practices for Safe Haven Providers



Best Practices for Hospital Staff

Designated Safe Haven locations have procedures that personnel/volunteers must follow when accepting a surrendered infant. First, let's look at procedures for hospital staff.





Step 1

Ask about private adoption

In Arizona, a Safe Haven surrender results in the immediate termination of parental rights. Parents should be informed of all safe alternatives for care for their infant including parenting support, temporary placement, family placement, and adoption. Pursuing a private adoption is an option which allows them to retain certain rights and possibly remain connected to their child.

If appropriate, facilitate a conversation about private adoption and provide a referral to a licensed private adoption agency. You may also contact the Arizona Safe Haven Baby Foundation at 1-866-707-2229 for assistance with this step.



Step 2

Accept physical custody of the infant

If private adoption is not desired, accept physical custody of the infant under the Safe Haven laws.



Step 3

Request information

Request the surrendering parent to provide medical information and any other important facts about the infant. ***Note: If the parent declines this request, a Safe Haven provider cannot compel the parent to provide this information. You can also offer to provide medical care to the mother as needed.***



Step 4

Provide medical care

Provide a physical examination and any medical care that the infant may require.



Step 5

Contact the Department of Child Safety

A hospital representative should contact the Department of Child Safety at 1-888-767-2445 to inform them that an infant has been surrendered.



Step 6

Parent requests for information

If the surrendering parent contacts you regarding reclaiming custody of the infant, please direct the parent to contact the Department of Child Safety at 1-888-767-2445 to discuss options.

Non-Hospital Staff

Designated Safe Haven locations have procedures that personnel must follow when accepting a surrendered infant. First, let's look at procedures for non-hospital staff.





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Step 4

Transport the infant

Arrange to have the infant transported to the nearest hospital.
Transportation to a hospital for additional medical care can also be offered to the mother.



Step 5

Notify the Department of Child Safety

Staff from the Safe Haven surrender site will contact the local Department of Child Safety to inform them of the infant's surrender and the location of the hospital where the infant was transported.



Step 6

Take Custody of the Infant (Adoption Agencies)

If the Safe Haven provider is a private licensed adoption agency, they should inform DCS if they will take custody of the infant within 24 hours of the physical examination.



Step 7

Parent requests for information

If the surrendering parent contacts you regarding reclaiming custody of the infant, please direct the parent to contact the Department of Child Safety at 1-888-767-2445 to discuss options.

Questions?

If you have any questions or for information regarding training , please contact the Arizona Safe Baby Haven hotline at **1-866-707-2229**.



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Hospital Scenario

In this scenario, you are hospital personnel. While on shift, a parent states they are unable to care for their baby after delivery and want to surrender their newborn infant under the Safe Haven laws.



What are your first steps according to procedure?

☐

Facilitate conversation around private adoption. If private adoption is not desired, discuss the option of Safe Haven relinquishment after both mother and infant have been discharged.

☐

Accept physical custody of the infant immediately, no questions asked.



Correct! This is the appropriate first step.



Facilitate conversation around private adoption. If private adoption is not desired, discuss the option of Safe Haven relinquishment after both mother and infant have been discharged.



Accept physical custody of the infant immediately, no questions asked.

Emergency Medical Services Agency Scenario

In this scenario, you are employed by an Emergency Medical Services station as an EMT. During your shift, a mother comes up to you and says she needs to surrender her infant under the Safe Haven laws.



What are your first steps according to procedure?

☐

Inform the mother that you will need her to provide medical information and any facts about the infant before the infant can be surrendered.

☐

Accept physical custody of the infant and request any medical information and facts about the infant from the mother, reminding her that this is optional.



Correct! These are the appropriate first steps. The mother is not required to provide any information about the infant. You should offer the mother medical care and transportation to the hospital.



Inform the mother that you will need her to provide medical information and any facts about the infant before the infant can be surrendered.



Accept physical custody of the infant and request any medical information and facts about the infant from the mother, reminding her that this is optional.





Adoption Agency Scenario

In this scenario, you work at a private adoption agency that is also a designated Safe Haven site. The aunt of a newborn brings a baby to you and says her sister, the baby's mother, asked her to surrender the infant.



Can you accept this infant?

☐

Yes, you are a designated site and the aunt is acting as an agent of the parent.

☐

No, only a parent can surrender an infant.



Correct! You can accept the infant under these parameters.

☒

Yes, you are a designated site and the aunt is acting as an agent of the parent.

☐

No, only a parent can surrender an infant.

After Surrender



What happens to the infant?

After an infant is surrendered, multiple agencies work together to ensure the child is healthy, uninjured and ultimately placed into a permanent home. Review the timeline below to learn more about the process.

Step 1

An infant is accepted through a Safe Haven surrender. The parent's rights are terminated at the time of surrender.

Step 2

The infant receives a physical examination. If needed, the infant is admitted to the hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

Step 3

A staff member from the Safe Haven provider notifies the Department of Child Safety (DCS) of the Safe Haven surrender.

Step 4

If the Safe Haven provider is a private licensed adoption agency, they will have 24 hours after the completion of the physical examination to accept custody of the infant.

Step 5

If the adoption agency does not accept custody of the infant within 24 hours, DCS will contact the next licensed private adoption agency until an agency agrees to take custody of the infant.

Step 6

If no agency has taken custody of the infant within 48 hours after the completion of the physical examination, DCS will take custody of the infant.

Step 7

The private adoption agency or DCS begins the adoption process for the infant.

Rights of Surrendering Parents



Rights of Surrendering Parents

Under Arizona's Safe Haven laws, parents have certain rights which protect them if they choose to surrender their infant.

Liability

The law provides protection from criminal and civil liability in certain criminal prosecutions and civil proceedings for parents who safely surrender their infants.

The law allows a parent to claim an affirmative defense to prosecution if the prosecution is based solely on the parent having left the infant at a designated Safe Haven location within the first 30 days of the infant's life. For the affirmative defense to apply, the infant must be delivered in a manner reasonably calculated to ensure the infant's safety.

Right to Request

Parents have the right to request a private adoption for the infant.

Right to Refuse

Parents have the right to decline a request to provide medical information or other facts about the infant.

Course Summary



Course Summary

In summary, the Arizona Safe Haven laws provide a safe alternative for infants who may be abandoned by their parents in dangerous locations. Parents may surrender an infant 30 days or younger to a staff member at a designated Safe Haven location. They may also surrender an infant in a designated Safe Haven infant drawer at a hospital.

When an infant is surrendered, a Safe Haven provider should ask the parent to provide information about the infant, but the parent isn't required to comply. The infant should receive any necessary medical care and the Department of Child Safety should be notified of the surrender.

Course Evaluation

Please take a moment to evaluate this training. Scan the code with your cell phone camera to open the evaluation. You may also go to

[https://www.jotform.com/build/252664665825165.](https://www.jotform.com/build/252664665825165)

A course certificate will be emailed to you after you have completed the evaluation.



Hotlines

Two 24/7 hotlines are available for parents and providers needing assistance.

1-866-707-2229

Arizona Safe Baby Haven Hotline

The Arizona Safe Baby Haven Foundation promotes Safe Haven education and awareness on the existing Safe Haven Law in Arizona to prevent the illegal abandonment of infants across the state.

Please call our 24/7 helpline to discuss the options of parenting and resources, adoption, and Safe Haven.

1-888-767-2445

Arizona Department of Child Safety

The Arizona Department of Child Safety is charged with child protection, but we also serve as a visionary leader in primary prevention, partnering with other family-serving agencies and community organizations to improve community health and strengthen families.

Available Resources

Resources from the National Safe Haven Alliance

The National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA) is a national resource for providers and parents considering infant surrender. Visit their website at www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org. To reach a live agent, call or text their 24/7 Crisis Hotline: 1-888-510-BABY (2229).

The NSHA site also provides downloadable resources such as brochures, information cards and posters.



Available Resources

Resources from the Arizona Safe Baby Haven Foundation

The Arizona Safe Baby Haven Foundation promotes Safe Haven education and awareness of the existing Safe Haven Law in Arizona to prevent the illegal abandonment of infants across the state.

Visit their website at <https://azsafebabyhaven.org>. To reach a live agent, call their 24/7 Crisis Hotline: 1-866-707-BABY (2229).

Course Complete

Congratulations! You've completed this training.