



A parent may not be ready to raise a child or start a family for various reasons. The Maryland Safe Haven Law allows them to surrender an unharmed infant without fear of arrest or prosecution.

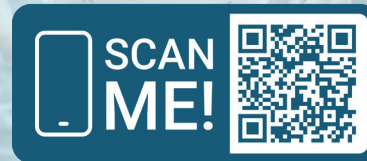
Maryland Safe Haven Program

- Unharmed Infant Up to 60 Days Old
- Give to a Responsible Adult or Designated Facility
- No Arrest or Prosecution

Maryland Law Article
Courts and Judicial Proceedings §5-641



<http://dhs.maryland.gov/safe-haven/>



DHS/PUB/SSA 2005-10/24



Are you pregnant?

Did you just give birth?

Are you unable to care for your baby?

Do you know someone struggling with these concerns?

The Safe Haven Law protects the parent and gives an infant a new home.





What is the purpose of the Safe Haven Program?

The Safe Haven Program is designed to protect an infant from danger or death and to protect the mother or responsible adult from any legal action.

How or where can the infant be handed over?

A designated facility is a Maryland hospital, a licensed medical provider, a police department/police barracks or fire company. Scan the QR code to view a list of Maryland's current designated facilities.

If the mother is too scared, can someone else take the infant?

The Maryland Safe Haven law allows a mother of an infant or responsible adult, designated by the mother, to leave an unharmed infant, within 60 days of birth, at a Maryland Safe Haven designated facility. The responsible adult must be 18 years or older.



What does unharmed mean?

In this case, Unharmed is defined as no evidence of physical injury or failure to give proper care and attention to an infant.

What should a mother or responsible adult say upon arrival at a designated facility?

The mother or responsible adult can say, "This is a Safe Haven baby." Staff at the designated facility may ask questions about the infant's health and family health history, but you do not have to answer any questions if you don't want to. The medical history of the infant will help medical and Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) staff do a better job of providing the necessary care.

NOTE: A direct handover must occur between the mother/responsible adult and a designated facility staff member, ensuring the infant is never left unattended.

What happens next?

The infant will receive any necessary medical attention before being discharged to the LDSS and placed for adoption.



What if the parent wishes to regain custody of their infant?

The goal is to have the infant placed with a permanent, stable family. However, if the infant's parent changes their mind, the Local Department of Social Services can be contacted at 1-800-917-7383.

To learn more about Maryland's Safe Haven Program, contact your local Department of Social Services at 1-800-917-7383. All calls can be made anonymously.

For more information you may visit the Maryland Department of Human Services' website.
(dhs.maryland.gov/safe-haven/).