

## The Challenge

Recent tragedies involving abandoned infants over the last few years in Minnesota have created cause for concern.

# "Give Life a Chance" LAW

## The Solution

Legislation was amended to provide a safe and anonymous alternative to abandonment.



## What does the law state?

A newborn baby: 1 hour to 7 days old

May be dropped off at a "Safe Place"

★ Hospital

★ Urgent care

★ Ambulance Service

(in response to a 911 call)

Must be handed over unharmed to an employee of the "safe place"

## What EMS Providers

EMS providers play a key role in carrying out this revised legislation.

## Need to Know

### Do's

1) Accept the baby, no questions asked.

2) Transport newborn to a hospital.

### Dont's

1) Ask identity of baby, mother or designated person.

2) Call the police.

You are immune from criminal or civil liability if you act in good faith



What was the law called previously?  
The "Safe Place for Newborns" law

What is the name of the law?  
"Give Life a Chance"

When did the law take effect?  
August 1, 2012

"This amendment strengthens our law, ensuring children are safe, and giving frightened, sometimes distraught mothers an option if they are unable to care for their newborns."

Lucinda Jesson  
Commissioner  
Minn. Dept. of Human Services

### Questions?

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# *"Give Life a Chance"*

## LAW

The "Give Life a Chance" law provides safe and anonymous alternative places for mothers (or a person acting with her permission) in Minnesota to leave their newborn child without questions if they are unable to care for them.

Formerly known as the "Safe Place for Newborns" law, it was amended in 2012 and took effect on Aug. 1, 2012.

This Minnesota child welfare initiative is in response to tragedies involving abandoned infants over the last several years. It provides a safe and anonymous alternative to abandonment.

The Minnesota Legislature, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Ambulance Association worked together to expand the current law.

The "Give Life a Chance" law states that a newborn:

Is defined as a child who is newborn to 7 days old.

May be dropped off at a "safe place", which includes a:

Hospital

Urgent care facility during its hours of operation

Ambulance service licensed under chapter 144E dispatched in response to a

911 call from a mother or a person with the mother's permission to relinquish a newborn infant.

Must be handed over unharmed to an employee of the "safe place".

Emergency medical service (EMS) providers play a key role in carrying out this revised legislation.

Safe place personnel, including ambulance personnel, are immune from criminal or civil liability if they are acting in good faith.

The amended law requires that:

An ambulance crew must accept the baby "no questions asked".

The ambulance crew may not ask the identity of the baby, mother, or person with the mother's permission and police are not to be called.

An ambulance receiving a newborn must transport the newborn to the hospital.

If the newborn is left at an urgent care center, employees are to call 911 and advise the dispatchers that the call is being made from a safe place for newborns and ask the dispatcher to send an ambulance or take another appropriate action to transport the child to a hospital.

Situations not covered by the law:

The "Give Life a Chance" law does not apply if a mother admits herself into the hospital for the birth and provides identifying information (even if she wants to place her child under the law).

Once a delivery occurs at a hospital, it creates a vital record and anonymity is no longer possible.