

You don't have to abandon your newborn baby. There is another way. The Safely Surrendered Baby Law allows you, if you are unable or unwilling to provide care for your newborn infant, to give up the baby safely and without shame. Now you have the chance to safely surrender your child at a Riverside County designated hospital emergency room or fire station that carries the Safely Surrendered Baby logo. The child must be given up within 72 hours of birth. For more information on this law and Safely Surrendered Baby locations, you can call 1-877 BABY SAFE (1-877-222-9723)



For the law to apply, **you must** hand your baby over to a nurse or fire fighter. At that time a numbered identification bracelet will be put on the baby and a matching bracelet will be offered to you. For the baby's health and wellbeing you will be asked to voluntarily fill out a questionnaire about the medical history or any illnesses in your family. You can mail back the medical questionnaire later, if you wish to do so. You will not be expected to give details about yourself.

The law gives you 14 days to think about your decision. If you change your mind and want your baby back you must call the Riverside County hotline at 1 800 442-4918. You will need to explain that you want to reclaim your safely surrendered baby and give the number on the baby's ID bracelet to prove who you are. More questions about you will be asked and an appointment will be made for you to meet with a social worker. The meeting with the social worker will help you make sure you can parent your child and adequately provide for your child's safety and welfare. After this interview, if the social worker agrees with your request, then the baby may be returned to you.