# California's Safely Surrendered Baby Law SB 1368

There is a way to safely surrender your baby





1.877.BABYSAF (1.877.222.9723)





To provide a safe alternative for the surrender of a newborn baby (within 72 hours of birth) that prevents harm and possible death.

# What is the difference between safe surrender, adoption, and abandonment?

## Safely Surrender

- Safe place
- Confidential
- Protects parent(s)/legal guardian
- 72 hours to surrender a baby and 14 days to reclaim

## Adoption

- Permitted at any age of the child
- Parent's rights

### **Abandonment**

- Extremely dangerous
- Parents legally responsible

## Who and Where?



## Who can surrender a baby?

- Parent(s)
- Legal guardian
- Other person with lawful custody

## Where can a parent/guardian surrender a baby? To an employee of:

- Public or private hospital
- Designated city or county fire station

## What is the process?



"I would like to Safely Surrender my baby"

Surrender at hospital or fire station with the logo



 14 days to reclaim baby



 Personnel is required to offer but not mandatory to complete



- Parent/legal guardian is free to go, no questions asked
- Guaranteed Confidentiality



- Hospital/fire station staff will notify the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) within 48 hours
- CWA reports to State Department of Social Services



- Baby is examined and provided medical treatment as needed
- Placed in a foster home
- "Cooling off" period begins



## Can a parent reclaim the baby?



- Reclaim baby within 14 days
- Parent/legal guardian with bracelet can:
  - Bring the copy of the coded bracelet to the safe surrender site
  - Call 1.877.BABYSAF (1.877.222.9723)
- The Child Welfare Agency will:
  - Verify identity of individual with bracelet
  - Assess parent's circumstances and ability to care for the child
  - Cancel court hearing (if a court date has been scheduled)

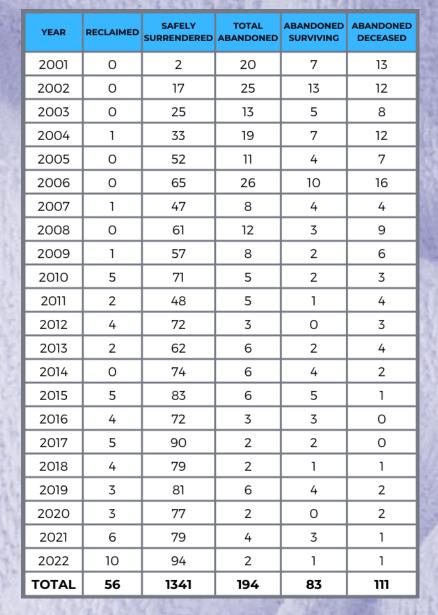
# What happens after 14 days?



- Parent/legal guardian can <u>NOT</u> claim a child after the 14 day period
- Child Welfare Agency will wait for court hearing to terminate parental rights
  - Adoption process can begin immediately

## Number of Safely Surrendered Babies

#### California Data





YEAR	KERN Safely Surrendered
2006	4
2007	3
2008	4
2009	1
2010	8
2011	4
2012	7
2013	7
2014	7
2015	10
2016	2
2017	6
2018	8
2019	5
2020	8
2021	6
2022	5
2023	3
TOTAL	98

https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/ocap/safelysurrendered-baby/data

## For More Information



- Kern County Department of Human Services Child Protective Services
  - https://www.kcdhs.org/services/child-protectiveservices/safely-surrender
  - 661.631.6011
- California Department of Social Services Child Welfare Agency
  - https://www.cdss.ca.gov/safe-surrender-baby
  - 1.877.BABYSAF (1.877.222.9723)