now there's a way to safely surrender your baby

http://www.babysafe.ca.gov

What is the Safely Surrendered Baby Law?

This law establishes a procedure for the voluntary surrender of a baby within 72 hours of birth. Under this law, parent(s) can safely surrender their baby and be protected from prosecution for child abandonment. This law makes it easier for a parent to surrender a baby who might otherwise abandon their baby in an unsafe place.

TOLL-FREE

For Safe Surrender Site locations within your county, dial:

211

Or if outside the county call:

1-877-BABY SAF

(1-877-222-9723)

The California Safely Surrendered Baby Law:

- ✓ Permits the parent(s) or surrendering person to safely and confidentially surrender a baby within three days of birth.
- ✓ Provides a safe place for babies.
- ✓ Protects the parent(s) or surrendering person from prosecution for child abandonment.
- ✓ Does not require that names be given when the baby is surrendered.
- ✓ Allows the parent(s) or surrendering person at least 14 days to reclaim the baby.

In California, no one ever has to abandon a baby again.

State of California

Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Social Services

PUB 400A (11/10)

There is an option.

Don't abandon your baby.

now there's a way to safely surrender your baby

How does it work?

A parent who is unable or unwilling to care for their baby can safely surrender the baby within three days of birth. All that is required is that the baby be given to an on-duty employee of a hospital or safe surrender site in California. A confidentially coded ID bracelet will be placed on the baby's ankle and a matching bracelet offered to the surrendering person. The bracelets help connect the parent to the baby if the parent wants the baby back.

Can only a parent bring in the baby?

No. The law allows another person to safely surrender the baby if the person has permission from the parent(s.)

What is a "Safe Surrender" Site?

A hospital or other location designated by the Board of Supervisors in each county. A safe surrender site will display this logo:

What information must be given to the people accepting the baby?

None. No information is required but the person surrendering the baby will be given a medical information questionnaire to complete. Completion of the questionnaire is voluntary, although the information regarding family medical history can assist in properly caring for the baby. The questionnaire may be mailed in later.

What happens to the baby?

After receiving a confidentially coded ankle bracelet, the baby is examined and given medical treatment, if needed. The baby is then placed in a foster or pre-adoptive home.

What happens to the parent?

Once the parent or surrendering person has safely turned over the baby, they are free to go, without any questions asked.

What happens if a parent wants the baby back?

Under the law, a parent or surrendering person has at least 14 days to reclaim the baby. They should bring their copy of the coded bracelet back to the safe surrender site.

Why is California doing this?

You may have heard stories about babies being left in dumpsters, public toilets or other unsafe locations. The parents abandoning their babies may have been under severe emotional or financial stress. The mothers may have hidden their pregnancies, fearful of what would happen if their families found out. Because they were afraid and felt they had nowhere to turn for help, they abandoned their baby. Abandoning a baby puts the baby in extreme danger. It is also illegal. Too often, it results in the baby's death. Because of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, this tragedy doesn't ever have to happen in California again.

Is there another choice?

Yes. Adoption is always a choice and should be considered first.

Whenever parents have decided that they are unable to care for a baby, whatever the reason, adoption is by far the best choice. Adoption protects the rights of all involved, including the baby. In fact, parents may be able to assist in selecting the adoptive parents and may be allowed to have contact with the baby after the adoption.

It's important for women to seek help while they are pregnant, not after giving birth.

Every baby deserves a healthy life.