

Information Regarding Babies Who May Be Eligible Members of Indian Tribes

What is the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)?

The ICWA was enacted in 1978 to prevent the breakup of Indian children and families and to protect the best interests of Indian children, their families, and Tribes.

The ICWA provides greater protections to Indian children and the child's Tribe. If the baby's biological parents are members of a Tribe and the safe surrendered baby is eligible for enrollment in a Tribe, the baby is entitled to additional services and protections, including:

- ◆ Active efforts to keep the baby connected to their Tribe and culture;
- ◆ Placing the baby with extended family and following the ICWA placement preferences;
- ◆ Notifying the baby's Tribe of the proceedings after surrender;
- ◆ Working with the baby's Tribe to determine the best permanency option, including tribal customary adoption;
- ◆ Receiving federal and tribal benefits; and
- ◆ Support from child welfare personnel who have been trained about ICWA requirements and procedures, cultural competency and sensitivity, and best practices for providing services to Indian children placed out of their homes.

If you are a biological parent of a safely surrendered baby and are a member of a Tribe or believe your baby may be eligible for enrollment in a Tribe, you should complete the ICWA-020 Parental Notification of Indian Status form or contact the county social worker to assist you. The social worker will need this following information to contact the baby's Tribe:

- ◆ The Tribe or Tribes' names and location;
- ◆ The name of a reservation or rancheria;
- ◆ A parent's membership number and date(s) of birth; and
- ◆ Infant's date of birth.



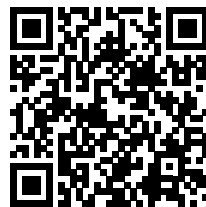
OFFICE OF
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
California Department of Social Services

grow strong families

For more information on what to do if you're thinking about surrendering a baby, call:
1.877.BABYSAF (1.877.222.9723)
or visit:
<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/safe-surrender-baby>

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There Is a Way to **Safely Surrender Your Baby**



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(1.877.222.9723)
<https://www.211la.org/safely-surrender-baby>

What is the Safely Surrendered Baby Law?

The Safely Surrendered Baby law allows you to take your newborn to a safe place if you cannot care for them.

It is legal, confidential, and free.

Safe Surrender is not the same as abandoning an infant, which is illegal and puts a baby in extreme danger.

What is the difference between a safe surrender and an adoption?

Under the Safely Surrendered Baby law:

- ◆ You can only surrender a newborn up to three days, or 72 hours, after birth.
- ◆ Your identity will remain anonymous.
- ◆ You will not have to go to court.
- ◆ After the surrender, you have 14 days to regain custody.
- ◆ After the 14 days, it is unlikely that you and the child will be able to reconnect because there will be no documentation linking you and the baby.

If you choose to place your child for adoption:

- ◆ You can choose adoption for a child at any age.
- ◆ You can choose to have a closed or an open adoption and you may be able to choose the baby's new family.
- ◆ You will be part of the legal process.
- ◆ You will have 30 days to change your mind after voluntarily placing your child for adoption.

- ◆ You and your child may be able to maintain a connection or reconnect in the future.

How do I surrender a baby?

1. Within three days (72 hours) after birth, go to a hospital, fire station, or other location with the Safe Surrender logo and give the baby to any staff member.
2. Staff will give you and the baby matching ID bracelets to help you reconnect with the baby if you change your mind.
3. You will be provided with an optional medical questionnaire for the baby's medical history.
4. To regain custody within the 14-day time frame following surrender, you will need to bring your coded bracelet back to the Safe Surrender site or call 1-877-BABYSAF stating you want to regain custody. If you wait longer than 14 days to regain custody, the baby may not be able to be reclaimed.

Where can I find a safe surrender site?

- ◆ All hospitals
- ◆ All fire stations
- ◆ Other locations can be Safe Surrender sites. Look for the Safe Surrender sign indicating their ability to accept your baby.



BABY SAFE SURRENDER
No shame | No blame | No names

To find the nearest Safe Surrender Site, call 1-877-BABYSAF (1-877-222-9723) or visit: <https://www.211la.org/safely-surrender-baby>

What happens to the baby after being surrendered?

- ◆ The baby is examined and given medical treatment if needed. Once the parent or other person with lawful custody has safely turned over the baby, they are free to go without any questions asked.
- ◆ In most cases, the baby is placed with a family who is ready to adopt. If an adoptive family isn't available, the baby will be placed with a temporary foster family until an adoptive family is found.

Can only the parent surrender the baby?

No. If the parent is unable to bring the baby to a Safe Surrender site, they can permit another person with lawful custody to surrender the baby for them.

What information does the parent have to give?

You will be asked to complete a voluntary health questionnaire. If you complete the health questionnaire the information provided will be kept confidential. This information will help with the well-being and long-term care of the baby.