



Save Abandoned Babies Foundation

Illinois is a safe haven state. Tell a friend. Talk about it. You might save a life.

The Illinois Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act offers a safe, legal option to unsafe infant abandonment. An unharmed newborn, up to 30 days old, may be handed to staff at hospitals, emergency medical care facilities, police stations, firehouses, college and university police stations, and Illinois State Police district headquarters. No questions need to be answered and there is no fear of prosecution.

Save Abandoned Babies Foundation's Accomplishments:

March 18, 2000: volunteers hold first meeting to create legislation to save newborn lives through the establishment of Safe Havens in Illinois.

December 1, 2000: final draft of Act approved with input from over 30 organizations with health, child welfare and legislative interests.

August 17, 2001: Act signed into law. Relinquishment is 3 days old or younger. Safe Haven locations are hospitals and fire stations. Focus turns to raising public awareness.

April 4, 2003: proclaimed by the Governor as the first Save Abandoned Babies Day.

2003: amended Illinois School Code to require Sex Education teach about the Safe Haven law.

2004: law amended to add police stations as designated Safe Haven locations.

2005: Sunset Clause removed.

2006: amended Illinois Comprehensive Health Education Program to require teaching grades 6 – 12 about the Safe Haven law.

2006: law amended to extend relinquishment to seven days old or younger.

2007: law passed mandating all Illinois Safe Havens display a uniform sign indicating the facility as a designated Safe Haven. These signs used in at least 26 other states.

2008: Alaska and Nebraska sign Safe Haven laws. All 50 states have a Safe Haven law.

2009: law amended to extend relinquishment to 30 days old or younger.

2010: law amended to improve information packet offered to relinquishing parents to obtain medical information.

2011: law amended to designate Safe Haven sites to include state college, university and private college or university when police department employees are present, and district headquarters.

Since the Illinois Safe Haven law was passed in 2001, 126* infants were brought to a Safe Haven. Another 82 were illegally abandoned, 43 of those did not survive.

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| Age 13–17: | 9.62% | <u>Legally</u> | Black: | 26.19% | <u>Illegally:</u> | Black: | 25.61% |
| Age 18–24: | 26.92% | <u>Relinquished</u> | White: | 50.79% | <u>Abandoned:</u> | White: | 18.29% |
| Age 25–30: | 12.50% | | Latino: | 9.52% | | Latino: | 19.51% |
| Age 31–41: | 9.13% | | Asian: | 0.79% | | Asian: | 1.22% |
| Unknown: | 41.83% | | Mixed: | 2.38% | | Mixed: | 7.32% |
| | | | Unknown: | 10.32% | | Unknown: | 28.05% |

*23.8% parents who initially planned to use the Safe Haven Law, when given the opportunity to talk about options, chose to either make an adoption or a parenting plan.

Reviewing the profiles of women who killed their newborns, researchers discovered that the perception of a young poor, unemployed, single woman as the culprit is not borne out by evidence. The women typically had other children, did not show evidence of mental problems, had no record of being abused as children, and had regular jobs. Half of them were living with the baby's father.

As of 4/1/18