



# SAVE ABANDONED BABIES FOUNDATION

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## Police Station Safe Haven Training Guide

The Police Station Training Video and Training Guide are provided free of charge to police stations by the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation in conjunction with DCFS. They provide the requirements for police stations that are safe havens under the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act (325 Illinois Compiled Statutes 2/).

While the video provides information about the requirements for police stations under the Act, this Training Guide gives detailed information about two of the requirements for safe havens:

- POST A SIGN.** The police station must post a uniform sign on the exterior of the building to indicate it is a location at which a person may relinquish an infant.

**Police stations that do not have staff present 24/7 must post a sign that includes the following: “Only when staff are present.”**

To purchase a uniform sign, please visit: [Signs | Nsha](#).

- OFFER INFORMATION TO THE RELINQUISHING PERSON.** The police station must offer certain information to the relinquishing person, either in writing or by referring the person to a website or other electronic resource. **NOTE:** The person does not have to accept the information.

The information that must be offered to the relinquishing person is provided in the following four brochures developed by the state:

- Help is Here
- No Shame. No Blame. No Names
- Taking Care of Yourself After Giving Birth
- Illinois Has New Options for Adoption and Post-adoption

The informational brochures include the following:

- Notice about termination of parental rights and the process to regain custody
- Information that describes the Act and the rights of birth parents, including an option for the parent to complete and mail to DCFS a form that asks for basic anonymous background information about the relinquished child
- Information about a mother's postpartum health
- Information about the Illinois Adoption Registry, including a toll-free number and website information for obtaining **forms to register** with the **Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange (IARMIE)**

These brochures can be accessed/downloaded at

<https://saveabandonedbabies.org/resources-for-safe-havens/>

Hard copies of the brochures may be ordered free of charge from

[https://saveabandonedbabies.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SAB\\_Materials\\_Order\\_Form\\_General\\_0518.pdf](https://saveabandonedbabies.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SAB_Materials_Order_Form_General_0518.pdf). Please fill out the form and mail it to: info@saveabandonedbabies.org

**SAFE HAVENS, INCLUDING POLICE STATIONS, ARE ENCOURAGED TO KEEP SEVERAL HARD COPIES OF THE BROCHURES IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT OF A RELINQUISHMENT AT THEIR LOCATION.**

NOTE that safe havens, including police stations, may also wish to obtain the above-mentioned **IARMIE registration forms** and include them with the brochures in the information offered to the relinquishing person. The person may choose to complete the forms at the safe haven and ask the staff there to forward them to the appropriate agency.

*Nothing prevents the relinquishing person from providing their identity, if they wish to do so, or from completing the forms and asking the police station to forward those forms to the Department of Children and Family Services or the Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange.*

## REMINDERS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENTS REGARDING THE SAFE HAVEN LAW

- Be sure all School Resource Officers are trained in the law, and ensure that safe haven information is available at the schools. Note that the Illinois School Code requires all classes that teach comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education to teach about the safe relinquishment of a newborn as provided in the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.
- Be sure any social workers who may work with the department are trained about the law, and know where in the station to locate the informational materials.
- Police spokespersons should take all opportunities to remind the public about the existence and main provisions of the Safe Haven Law.

If you have questions, please contact the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services at **800-232-3798**.

Finally, please be aware that DCFS is planning to provide updates to the information that must be offered to the relinquishing person. To receive notice of any updates, please provide the name and email address of the person to whom these updates should be sent. Send this name and email address to: **info@saveabandonedbabies.org**.

Thank you for participating in the Police Station Training Video and Guide and for your critical work in saving infants from illegal abandonment and their parents from prosecution.

Sincerely,

Save Abandoned Babies Foundation

saveabandonedbabies.org