

Safe Places to Leave your Baby

Parenting is an exciting and enjoyable time for some and for others it can bring a great deal of stress and fear. If for any reason you feel you cannot parent your child, there are safe places where you can leave your baby. These safe places will take your baby with open arms, no questions asked, and will also make sure your baby receives the care and protection he or she deserves.

State law in South Dakota allows you to voluntarily leave your baby with a hospital or child placement agency if your child is less than 60 days old. This is also known as the *Baby Moses Law*. Leaving your baby with one of these places is NOT a crime as long as your child has not been harmed.

You can leave your baby with:

- Hospitals or clinics
- Law enforcement officers
- Licensed child placement agencies
- Department of Social Services offices
- Emergency medical technicians
- Firefighters

You may be asked for medical information related to your baby's medical history. However, you will NOT be required to provide any information, including your name or the other parent's name.

Contact Us

South Dakota
Department of Social Services
Division of Child Protection Services
Phone: 605.773.3227
Email: CPS@state.sd.us
Online: dss.sd.gov/childprotection

South Dakota Department of Social Services

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Safe Havens in South Dakota

Secure places to leave your baby... no questions asked

South Dakota Department of Social Services

Your Parental Rights Will Be Terminated

If you do not *express your intent to return* for your baby, your parental rights to your child will be terminated after 14 days. Your baby then is taken in to care by the Department of Social Services' Division of Child Protection Services or the licensed child placement agency.

The place where you leave your baby must notify the Department of Social Services about having your child. The Department **cannot** attempt to identify, contact or investigate you unless it appears your child has been harmed. The Department or the child placement agency will take custody and care for your baby.

Your baby's other parent has the right to file for custody after you have given the baby up. To gain custody, the other parent has 30 days to prove he or she is the parent of your baby and that he or she did not consent to giving up the child's custody.

If the other parent does not come forward and 60 days have passed, a circuit court hearing is held to terminate the parental rights. *This means you no longer have any rights to your baby.*

*For more information on this law, see SDCL 25-5A-27 through 25-5A-35.

**If applicable, the Indian Child Welfare Act must be followed.

Safe Places to Consider

All About U Adoptions
214 N Broadway
Marion, SD 57043
Phone: 605.770.2357

Bethany Christian Services
1915 East 8th Street, Suite 101
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Phone: 605.336.6999

Bethany Christian Services Western South Dakota
217 Kansas City Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone: 800.238.4269

Catholic Social Services
529 Kansas City Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone: 605.348.6086

Lutheran Social Services
705 41st Street Ste 200
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: 605.444.7500

Lutheran Social Services
2920 Sheridan Lake Road
Rapid City, SD 57702
Phone: 605.791.6700

New Horizons Adoption Agency Inc.
2500 W 49th St, Suite 213
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-3619
Phone: 800.314.3370

Local DSS Offices to Leave Your Baby

Aberdeen
3401 10th Ave SE
605.626.2388

Brookings
1310 Main Ave S, Suite 101
605.318.9477

Chamberlain
320 Sorenson Dr
605.734.4500

Eagle Butte
400 N Willow
605.318.9478

Huron
1000 18th St. SW., Ste. 3,
605.353.7100

Lake Andes
140 W Highway 50
605.318.9479

Mission
171 N. Marge Lane
605.318.9494

Mitchell
116 E 11th Ave
605.995.8000

Mobridge
920 6th St W
605.318.9484

Pierre
912 E Sioux Ave
605.773.3612

Rapid City
221 Mall Drive
605.394.2525

Sioux Falls
1501 S. Highline Ave.
605.367.5444

Spearfish
120 Industrial Drive, Suite 6,
605.642.6904

Sturgis
2200 W Main St
605.347.2588

Vermillion
114 Market St, Suite 102
605.677.6800

Watertown
2001 9th Ave SW, Suite 300
605.882.5050

Winner
648 W. 2nd St.
605.318.9482

Yankton
3113 Spruce St, Suite 200
605.668.3030

