

Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc.



Founder, Monica Kelsey, started Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc. after learning she was abandoned as an infant and after seeing a "baby box" in operation at a church, in Cape Town, South Africa. She has made it her personal mission to educate others on the Safe Haven Law and to do whatever it takes to save the lives of innocent babies from being abandoned.

Reports of deadly infant abandonment continue throughout the country even with the establishment of the Safe Haven Law in all 50 states for the past 10 to 20 years. The Safe Haven Baby Box takes the face to face interaction out of the surrender and protects the mother from being seen. On February 12, 2019 in Lake Charles Louisiana a newborn baby was found outside the entrance of an ER at the hospital. This woman clearly didn't want her identity to be known so she laid the baby down and walked away. Many more reports about illegal abandonments infer women are seeking anonymity when surrendering an infant, and most individuals do not understand the Safe Haven law. Raising awareness and educating the public about the Safe Haven laws is a critical first step. Installing a Safe Haven Baby Box is a vital and proactive next step.

The Safe Haven Baby Boxes organization's primary goal is to raise awareness of the Safe Haven Law. Women in crisis can call our National Safe Haven 24-hour hotline and can receive counseling and assistance. To date, the hotline has received close to 5,000 calls from every state in the United States. Safe Haven Baby Boxes has referred hundreds of women to crisis pregnancy centers, assisted in 6 adoption referrals, and have had 75 legal Safe Haven surrenders. Eight infants have been surrendered in a Safe Haven Baby Box.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc. also works closely with legislators to pass laws allowing the organization to work to save abandoned babies with the use of electronically monitored boxes. The organization has successfully helped pass bills in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Arkansas and is working with legislators in more states to pass bills for the boxes. There are 25 fully functioning baby boxes installed in Indiana, Ohio, and Arkansas. Over 40 more boxes are planned for installation in Indiana, Ohio, and Arkansas.



Safe Haven Baby Boxes



What is a Safe Haven Baby Box?

A Baby Box is a safety device provided for under a state's Safe Haven Law and legally permits a mother in crisis to safely, securely, and anonymously surrender her unwanted newborn. A Baby Box is installed in an exterior wall of a designated fire station or hospital. It has an exterior door that automatically locks upon placement of a newborn inside the Baby Box, and an interior door which allows a medical staff member to secure the surrendered newborn from inside the designated building.

How does the Baby Box work?

1. Parent opens the door to the baby box and a silent alarm is triggered and a call goes to dispatch.
2. Parent places the baby in the bassinet. A sensor is located on the inside of the box that triggers a second call dispatch call.
3. Parent can push a button or simply close the door, which sets off a third alarm and call to dispatch.
4. Emergency personnel retrieves the baby from the inside, evaluates, and takes the baby to the hospital.

Why have a Baby Box in a community?

*The points below are taken from leaders of communities who have supported the installation of the Baby Box in their community

- It provides the community an opportunity to play a role in proactively saving the lives of children since many are not aware of the Safe Haven law.

- Lack of knowledge about the law and prohibiting anonymity has historically produced catastrophic and devastating results of babies being abandoned.
- Many women in crisis want and need anonymity when surrendering an infant, either because of fear of being recognized, the stigma associated with the surrender, or fear of prosecution due to the lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of the Safe Haven law.
- We hope and pray for a face-to-face surrender as it benefits both the mother and infant. The Safe Haven Baby Box hotline provides counseling to women in crisis and only suggests the Baby Box when it is the last option.
- The Baby Box is tangible, and the Safe Haven law is not. By having a Baby Box in the community, you are providing an opportunity to further educate about the law.

Mission and goals of Safe Haven Baby Boxes:

- Raise awareness of the Safe Haven law through the installation of Baby Boxes, providing counseling with the crisis hotline, use of billboards, social media, speaking engagements, and fundraisers.
- Provide a safe and anonymous option for surrendering an infant.
- Work with legislators in every state to pass a law allowing the installation of Baby Boxes.
- Install Baby Boxes in every state in the United States.

We welcome you to consider helping us by doing any of the following:

1. Connect with us on social media and share with everyone you know.
2. Support any local events for Safe Haven Baby Boxes.
3. Assist with or host a local fundraiser.
4. Invite Monica to speak at your church, school, or other community venue.
5. Attend an "unveiling / Baby Box blessing" event.

Please contact us if you have any questions or need more information.

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