

Safe Haven for Newborns

KANSAS AND MISSOURI
SAFE HAVEN LAWS:
A CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
STRATEGY



THIS IS A SAFE HAVEN
WHEN STAFF ARE PRESENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION
DIAL 2-1-1 OR (866) 320-5764



WHAT ARE SAFE HAVENS?

- A Safe Haven site provides an alternative to abandonment, abuse or murder of a newborn.
- Public safety and emergency departments are designated Safe Havens.

WHERE ARE SAFE HAVENS?

- MISSOURI: A newborn may be left in the hands of staff at hospitals, ambulance, police or fire stations.

Safe Place for Newborns Act 2002

- KANSAS: A newborn may be left in the hands of any staff on duty at hospitals, fire stations, city and county health departments.

Newborn Infant Protection Act 2006

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT SAFE HAVEN?

There is very little data but what we have indicates primarily women between 18 to 22 years old of all education levels, ethnic backgrounds and income levels who:

- Likely have had no prenatal care;
- Are unmarried/not in a relationship with the father of the baby;
- Feel isolated and alone;
- Have feelings of guilt and shame about their pregnancy that factor into their decision to abandon their baby;
- Their newborn may be the product of incest or rape;
- See abandonment as part of the pregnancy denial and as a way to achieve ultimate closure to a traumatic event.

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR THIS LAW?

Four children die every day in the United States as a result of child abuse.

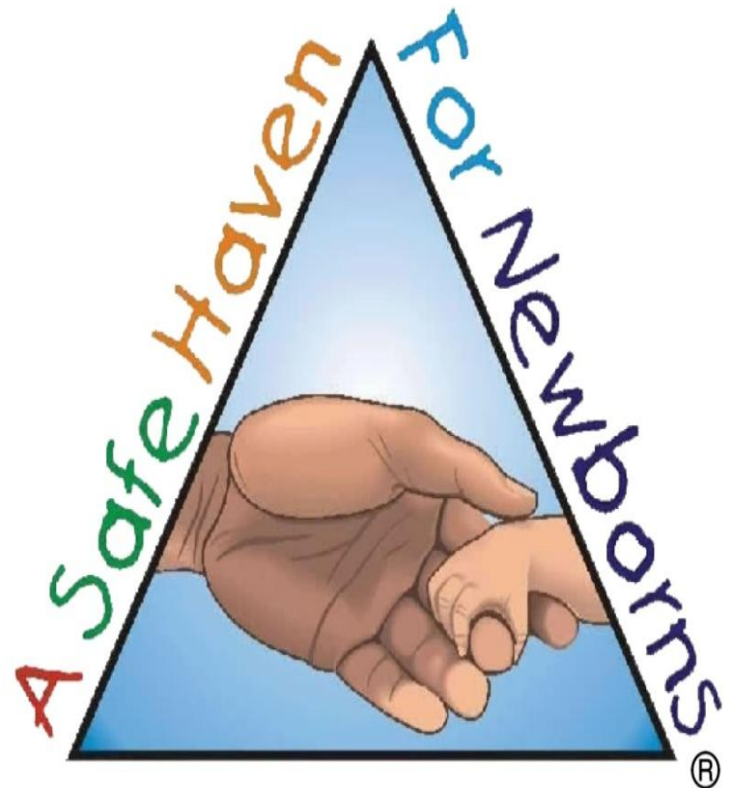
Three out of four of these victims are under the age of 4.

Newborns are at the greatest risk in the first days of their life.

Safe Haven for Newborns Coalition of Greater Kansas City

OUR GOAL

Raising community awareness
about Kansas and Missouri
Safe Haven laws through
comprehensive, coordinated,
metro-wide promotion
of Safe Havens as a
child abuse prevention strategy.



Our Partners



The United Way of Greater Kansas City supports the project with their 2-1-1 Call Centers.

Anyone looking for additional information regarding local Safe Haven sites and resources can

dial 2-1-1 or (866) 320-5764



Mother & Child Health Coalition supports the efforts in the greater Kansas City area with a page on their website:

www.mchc.net

Friend us on  Facebook -- look for us under "KC Metro Safe Haven"