



MISSOURI'S *Safe Place for Newborns Act*

Section [210.950 RSMo](#), **Missouri's Safe Place for Newborns Act**, allows parents to voluntarily give up their newborn up to 90 days old without prosecution, as long as it is done safely and according to law.

Parents who choose to voluntarily give up their child, who is between 90 days and one year old, can use this law as an affirmative defense to prosecution related to child abandonment or child endangerment if the child was given up safely and according to law.

What do I do when a parent arrives with an infant?

Confirm the following:

- They are the parent or they are acting on the parent's behalf
- The infant is less than one year old
- They are aware they are relinquishing any parental rights to the infant
- They know the decision is permanent
- They know the other parent has rights

If the child is not already at a hospital, you must **IMMEDIATELY** ensure the child is taken to the nearest hospital for any necessary treatment. Hospital staff are required to notify the Children's Division and local juvenile office.

NOTE: If the other parent would like custody of the infant, they must take steps to establish parentage within 30 days of the juvenile officer filing a public notice.

Who can take custody of infants?

You can take custody of an infant if you are a:

- Law enforcement officer
- Firefighter
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- An employee, agent, or member of the staff in a health care provider position or on duty in a nonmedical paid or volunteer position of any
 - Hospital
 - Maternity home
 - Pregnancy resource center

Authorized personnel are immune from civil, criminal, and administrative liability for accepting physical custody of a child pursuant to this act if the person acts in good faith.

Questions?

For more information, call **1-800-392-3738** or visit [tinyurl.com/SafePlaceForNewborns](https://www.tinyurl.com/SafePlaceForNewborns)