This law establishes a procedure for the voluntary surrender of a baby within 72 hours of birth. Under this law, parent(s) can safely surrender their baby and be protected from prosecution for child abandonment. This law makes it easier for a parent to surrender a baby who might otherwise abandon their baby in an unsafe place.

**Why is Santa Rosa Fire Department doing this?**
You may have heard stories about babies being left in dumpsters, public toilets or other unsafe locations. The parents abandoning their babies may have been under severe emotional or financial stress. The mothers may have hidden their pregnancies, fearful of what would happen if their families found out. Because they were afraid and felt they had nowhere to turn for help, they abandoned their baby. Abandoning a baby puts the baby in extreme danger. It is also illegal. Too often, it results in the baby's death.

**How does it work?**
A parent who is unable or unwilling to care for their baby can safely surrender the baby within three days of birth. All that is required is that the baby be given to an on-duty employee of a hospital or safe surrender site in California. A confidentially coded ID bracelet will be placed on the baby's ankle and a matching bracelet offered to the surrendering person. The bracelets help connect the parent to the baby if the parent wants the baby back.

**Can only a parent bring in the baby?**
No. The law allows another person to safely surrender the baby if the person has permission from the parent(s).
What is a “Safe Surrender” Site?
A hospital or other location designated by the Board of Supervisors in each county. The site will have Safe Surrender Kits and have the appropriate training. A Safe Surrender site will display this logo:

![Safe Surrender Logo]

What information must be given to the people accepting the baby?
None. No information is required but the person surrendering the baby will be given a medical information questionnaire to complete. Completion of the questionnaire is voluntary, although the information regarding family medical history can assist in properly caring for the baby. The questionnaire may be mailed in later.

What happens to the baby?
After receiving a confidentially coded ankle bracelet, the baby is examined and given medical treatment, if needed. The baby is then placed in a foster or pre-adoptive home.

What happens to the parent?
Once the parent or surrendering person has safely turned over the baby, they are free to go, without any questions asked.

What happens if a parent wants the baby back?
Under the law, a parent or surrendering person has at least 14 days to reclaim the baby. They should bring their copy of the coded bracelet back to the safe surrender site.

What is the process to be designated as a Safe Surrender site?
Sonoma County Human Services Division and Sonoma County Public Health will look at each department on a case by case basis and make recommendation. They will then take recommendation to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

References:
- Senate Bill 1368 - Safe Haven Law
- Senate Bill 116 - SSB Law Amendment
- Senate Bill 139 - SSB Law Amendment
- California Penal code 271.5 Infant Safe Haven
- California Health and Safety Code Section 1255.
- California Health and Institutional Code section 14005.24 Abandonment of Newborns

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