

## If you cannot care for your baby: Safe surrender

Not all women who get pregnant are ready to raise a child. You and your baby's health and safety are important. If you feel that you can't care for your baby, you can get help to find out about adoption, parenting support, and how to make sure your baby is safe.

- Parenting support is available to help you learn how to care for your baby. Call 211 or 1-800-723-3638 or go to [211info.org](http://211info.org) for information about home visiting and other parent support services in your community. These resources can also help you to find health care, housing or other services.
- If you are not sure you are ready to raise a child, a social worker or adoption counselor can give you support and information to make the best decisions for you and your baby.
- If you decide not to raise your baby, many loving families in Oregon want to adopt. Making an adoption plan can be one way to love and care for your baby. For more information on adoption, counseling or other social service supports, see the numbers below.

Sometimes parents feel they have no choice but to give up a baby. Oregon has a law called "A Safe Place for Newborns," which allows a parent to give a baby to someone at a safe place, legally and without anyone having to know.

How the "A Safe Place for Newborns" law works:

- The birth mother or father can take the baby to a hospital, police station, sheriff's office, or fire department.
- As long as the baby is 30 days old or younger, is handed to a person at one of the above places, and shows no signs of abuse, it is legal to make this choice.
- You do not have to give any identifying information.
- The baby will be cared for and will get medical attention, if needed.

For more information about the "A Safe Place for Newborns" law, call 211 or 1-800-723-3638 or go to [www.healthoregon.org/asafeplace](http://www.healthoregon.org/asafeplace).

**This is a big decision. Please talk to someone you trust about your options for the baby. Or call the numbers below for more help.**

For more information

**State of Oregon Adoption Services,**  
[www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/adoption](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/adoption)  
1-800-331-0503

**Coalition of Oregon Adoption Agencies**  
[www.oregonadoptionagencies.org](http://www.oregonadoptionagencies.org)

**Oregon 211info**  
[211info.org](http://211info.org)  
Call 211 or 1-800-723-3638

**Safe Surrender for Newborns**  
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyPeopleFamilies/Babies/SafeSurrender/Pages/index.aspx>