

## The Abandoned Infant Protection Act

The purpose of the New York State Abandoned Infant Protection Act is to protect newborn babies. It does this by protecting a parent who abandons a baby from criminal prosecution — if the person leaves the baby in a safe way — and by allowing the parent to remain anonymous. Here are some specifics of the law:

If you abandon your baby with the intent of giving up custody and responsibility for the baby, you will not be guilty of the crime of Endangering the Welfare of a Child or the crime of Abandonment of a Child, if:

- ▶ your intention is for the baby to be safe from physical injury and cared for appropriately; and
- ▶ you leave the baby with an appropriate person **or** you leave the baby in a suitable location and promptly inform an appropriate person of the child's location; and
- ▶ the baby is not more than 30 (thirty) days old.

The Abandoned Infant Protection Act does not list “suitable locations” or “appropriate persons.” Local district attorneys make those determinations. However, places that are staffed, such as **fire stations, police stations and hospitals**, are usually considered to be safe places to leave a baby who is not more than 30 days old.

New York State law requires mandated reporters to report the abandonment of a baby to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (child abuse hotline). However, under the Abandoned Infant Protection Act, if you do leave your baby, **you are not required to give your name.**

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/safe>



New York State  
Office of  
Children & Family  
Services

“...promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of our children, families, and communities.”

Capital View Office Park  
52 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Visit our website at:  
<http://ocfs.ny.gov>

For information on safe places to leave an infant under the Abandoned Infant Protection Act, call:  
**1-866-505-SAFE (1-866-505-7233)**

For information about child care, foster care, or adoption, call:  
**1-800-345-KIDS (1-800-345-5437)**

To report suspected child abuse and neglect, call:  
**1-800-342-3720**  
**1-800-638-5163 (TTY/TDD)**

For information on services for the blind, call:  
**1-866-871-3000**  
**1-866-871-6000 (TTY/TDD)**



State of New York

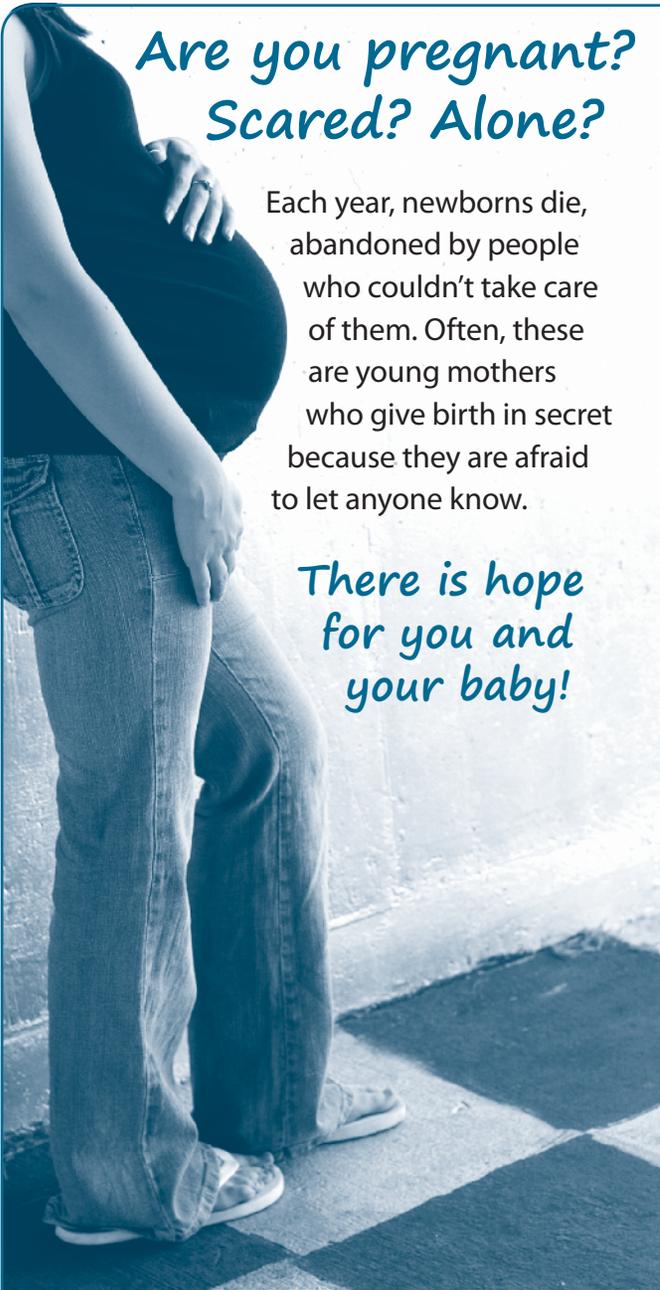
Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in large print or on audiotape upon request.

Pub. 4745 (rev. 09/12)



# Pregnant? Scared? Need help?

New York State Office of Children & Family Services



## Are you pregnant? Scared? Alone?

Each year, newborns die, abandoned by people who couldn't take care of them. Often, these are young mothers who give birth in secret because they are afraid to let anyone know.

*There is hope  
for you and  
your baby!*

## There is a better way.

If you feel like you may want to abandon your baby,  
**know the law.**

If your baby is **30 days old or less**, you may **legally and anonymously** abandon your baby, as long as you take these steps to protect the baby's safety:

### Leave your baby with a responsible person

(such as a police officer, firefighter, or hospital employee)

**OR**

### Leave your baby in a safe place

(such as a hospital, police station, or fire station), and

**immediately tell a responsible person where the baby is located.**

Either way, **you do not have to give your name.**

**Abandoned Infant Helpline:**  
1-866-505-SAFE (7233)

## Looking for someone to talk to?

Call these numbers for immediate counseling or referrals for counseling in your community:

- ▶ National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:  
**1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)**
- ▶ National Runaway Switchboard:  
**1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)**
- ▶ **2-1-1** (Referrals, available in many areas statewide)
- ▶ **3-1-1** (Referrals, New York City only)
- ▶ LIFENET (for mental health referrals in New York City)  
**1-800-LIFENET (1-800-543-3638)** (English)  
**1-877-AYUDESE (1-877-298-3373)** (Spanish)  
**1-877-990-8585** (Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese)  
**1-212-982-5284** (TTY/TDD for hearing impaired)
- ▶ Planned Parenthood: **1-800-230-PLAN (1-800-230-7526)** [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org)
- ▶ Parent Helpline at Prevent Child Abuse New York:  
**1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)**

## Have you considered adoption?

If you think you cannot keep your newborn baby, please consider adoption.

Many families in New York State of all races, religions, ages, and lifestyles want to provide a child with a loving home.

You can request that an adoption **be kept confidential**, and that your family and friends not be told. You cannot be investigated by Child Protective Services for surrendering your baby for adoption.

You can give up your baby for adoption at a private adoption agency (an authorized voluntary agency) or at your local department of social services (in New York City, the Administration for Children's Services). These agencies are listed in your local phone book or online directory and on the New York State Office of Children and Family Services website at <http://ocfs.ny.gov/adopt/agcymenu.asp>