

Newborn Relinquishment and Questionnaire

You were not prepared to have a baby.

Unsure what to do?

Leaving your newborn in a safe place is an option.

Information hotlines:

Maternal and Child Health Hotline:

1-800-722-2295

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mch/index.htm>

Safe Place for Newborns

Crisis Number: 1-877-440-2229

www.safeplacefornewborns.org

Under Wisconsin Statutes § 48.195, a parent can leave their unharmed newborn (under 30 days old) anonymously and without fear of prosecution in a newborn infant safety device as defined in 48.195(1b)(b) or with a law enforcement officer, emergency medical services practitioner or a hospital staff member.

You do not have to give your name or address to the person accepting the newborn, unless the following situations are true:

1. The newborn has been harmed; or
2. You are being forced by someone to give up the newborn; or
3. The newborn is more than 30 days old.

You can contact the County Human or Social Services Department in the county where you relinquished custody of the newborn if you change your mind. Before the county will consider returning the newborn to you, you must first prove you are the newborn's parent. A genetic test can prove you are the parent.

If you are the parent, you must take a number of steps before the child may be returned to you, including:

- Meeting with a County Social Worker;
- Having the County worker visit your home or where you plan on living with the newborn;
- Providing information on why you gave up the newborn;
- Providing information on the health of the newborn;
- Providing information on your ability to care for the newborn, including parenting skills;
- Providing information on anything that may keep you from caring for the newborn; and
- Providing information on your relationship with the newborn's other parent.

Based on all the information gathered, you might be required to receive help to make sure the newborn will be safe. The county and the court will make the final decision on whether or not it is safe for the newborn to be returned to you.

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call (608) 266-8787. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.